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JOHN BULL

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The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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Sleeplessness
Nervous Indigestion
Palpitation
Hysteria
Neuritis
Nausea
Faintness
Loss of Memory
St. Vitus' Dance
Trembling
Vertigo or Giddiness
Pressure in the Head
Sinking Sensations

and in addition to the somewhat **vague and Undefined Nervous Conditions** (yet real and distressing to the patient) of

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Morbid Forebodings
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Melancholia
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Vol. VII. No. 178. Saturday, October 30th, 1909. One Penny.

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THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

The Budget is expected to reach the Lords on the eve of Bonfire day! As part of the plan for delaying the crisis, the Government has decided to adjourn the Upper House, to "allow time for examination." The hope is still entertained that during that period an arrangement may be arrived at by which the Bill shall be allowed to pass. But, despite the powerful influences at work with this object, we still think the Lords will send the measure back, and that notwithstanding all pretexts for deferring the election till January, the advocates of "serving the dish hot" will prevail. Candidates should be getting their canvassing cards ready.

We have tabled an amendment to the Finance Bill which, if allowed by the Speaker, should produce an interesting discussion. It relates to the preamble, and therefore, under the procedure on Report Stage, comes after the rest of the measure has been disposed of. The Bill begins with the usual form that it shall be enacted "by and with the consent and advice of the Commons and of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in this Parliament assembled," etc. We propose to omit the words "and advice." So far as the Commons are concerned such words are quite redundant in a Finance Bill, because, earlier in the preamble, it is expressly stated that the several duties are granted by them. The effect of the amendment, therefore, is to relieve the Lords of any obligation to "advise" upon a financial measure, and to simply require their consent, *pro formâ*.

The John Bull League has arrived. Its birth was formally celebrated on Thursday last week—Trafalgar Day—in the presence of one of the most remarkable gatherings ever brought together at the Royal Albert Hall. To quote the words of an eminent lady authoress who was present, "It was a wonderful audience—so representative of the most interesting people this country can produce—those who work with their brains, as well as manual labourers"; whilst a well-known member of Parliament says, "It was unique—I could never have believed such a demonstration possible." And we could have had 50,000 people present had there been any hall capable of accommodating them!

Of course we were prepared for the tyranny of Party—that is one of the chief forces we are formed to fight. But, apparently, the tyranny of the Party Press has also to be reckoned with. That, however, is always the way with new movements—and, in a way, it is a compliment to the power of the League. We venture to predict that when, a year hence, we hold our first Anniversary meeting, things will be somewhat different.

The *Daily Telegraph* account of the proceedings, covering three columns, was excellent in its way, but a full verbatim report is now going to press, and will be available next week.

In the course of our speech, by the way, we accidentally knocked over the water-bottle, the contents of which, by a strange coincidence, made straight for the *Daily News* representative—a fact which perhaps accounts for the proprietors of that journal, in turn, throwing cold water upon the meeting.

The correspondence between Lord Charles Beresford and Mr. Asquith is not pleasant reading. To say the least of it, it is strange that two of Lord Charles's principal witnesses should be selected to make room for reorganisation plans. No doubt Mr. Bellairs will signify his formal entrance into the Opposition ranks by worrying the Government on the matter.

Mr. Ure, the Lord Advocate, is a confounded nuisance to his Party. It was he who first let the cat out of the bag in regard to the intention of Ministers to "get their own back" on the trade for the rejection of the Licensing Bill. And it is he who is now doing the Party incalculable harm by introducing Old Age Pensions as one of the counters in the game.

Our surmises about Evan Roberts were fairly correct. He is now reported to be slowly recovering from a serious mental breakdown, and is already threatening another Welsh revival. We hope the authorities will keep him under restraint. Cannot Mr. Lloyd George find him a job in connection with the Budget?

Our thanks to all who have sent us congratulations upon the success of the John Bull League meeting—to which we refer on another page. It was, indeed, a wonderful function.

Mr. Churchill and Mr. Burns admit that there has been no meeting of either the Board of Trade or the Local Government Board since they have been their respective Presidents. Oh, for that Business Government!

Look out for an important Ministerial announcement.

Hardly anybody not in the ranks of the Suffragettes will dispute the answer made by Mr. Winston Churchill to the deputation who waited upon him the other day, that the campaigns of violence in which these ladies indulge to keep their cause alive have done incalculable harm to it. It is true that they have succeeded in advertising their cause, but they have also succeeded in bringing it into derision, with the result that they have lost sympathy and support instead of having gained it. "The Votes for Women" movement is in a less popular position to-day than it was two or three years ago. And yet the claim itself is unanswerable.

Apropos what we said last week on the refusal of the authorities at Rye to continue the licence to the proprietor of the only theatre there, it is interesting to note what the Mayor said at the Council meeting when the question came up. "Now," he said, "the frequenters of the theatre see no reason why it should not remain in Rye, it forming a popular place of amusement for the working classes. On the other hand, there are many who agree that the performances have an injurious effect on the morals of the community. These include several influential residents connected with philanthropic and charitable organisations, who believe their frequent attendances have tended to impoverish a number of families that during the coming winter will be the first to clamour for public and private charity." Did anybody on this earth ever hear of such a ridiculous reason given by a responsible authority for compelling a man to close the doors of a theatre to the performances in which there is not the slightest objection otherwise, and this in a town where there is no other place of entertainment whatever? Obviously Rye is one of the places where the John Bull League is badly wanted.

Evidently our familiar and Rev. Brother Stiggins is running the Lewisham Public Libraries; at all events, instructions have been given at the Manor House Branch Library for the withdrawal of about 150 books of "doubtful or questionable" moral tone. Among the banned is Thackeray's "Vanity Fair," Dumas' "Three Musketeers," and nearly all the works of Rider Haggard and that well-known caterer for ladies and children—Miss Marie Corelli; so that at Lewisham henceforth the Haggard ceases troubling and dear Marie is at rest. But that is not all, and it is not the worst. Anxious that Lewisham should have a clean heart, Stiggins has also suppressed Mayhew's "Horse Doctor." In some quarters it is even rumoured that certain passages in the Bible are to be blacked out as coming within the category of indecent publications. But rumour is a lying jade; and for our part we can believe almost anything of Stiggins except that. By the way, has he failed to notice the works of William Shakespeare? These are in many instances indubitably shocking.

Is there not a mental twist in the religious attitude of Canon Ingles, Vicar of Witham, in Essex, towards the small boy? Addressing the ploughmen of the locality recently, this pious gentleman advocated that in rural districts boys should be taken away from school at ten years of age and put to work on farms. So obsessed is the Canon with his brilliant idea that he appears to have submitted it to the Education Department, to be met with the reply of an official there that he is surprised a Christian minister should propose to set up such a gem of child slavery. But the blind never see; and despairing of this rattle-pated "reform" while the present Government is in power, he calls upon the ploughmen to "return a political representative in sympathy with the views I have enunciated." Meanwhile, it is hereby suggested that he prays for increase of spiritual grace.

In the course of a breach of promise case heard before Mr. Justice Bray, at the Royal Courts, last week, it came out in evidence that the defendant, a provision merchant named Weir, wrote his first love-letter to the widow Muir upon butter paper. Some people never get the shop out of their minds for a moment. How thankful the widow must have felt at the time that her adorer wasn't a bricklayer, for assuredly in that case he would have sent his passionate message via a brick.

A Paris newspaper circulates the statement that King Alfonso has severely censured the Spanish Premier for not giving him time to consider the question of pardon or respite for Señor Ferrer. That bunkum will not serve Alfonso. He was well informed as to all the proceedings against Ferrer from the moment of his arrest. When the sentence of death was passed a distracted telegraphic appeal for mercy was made to him by Ferrer's daughter. Even if that telegram never reached him—which we refuse to believe—he had twenty-four hours in which to make up his mind to interfere or allow the victim of clerical hatred and intolerance to go to his doom on the judgment of a court-martial appointed to condemn him. Alfonso stands convicted as party to a ghastly crime against humanity. The indelible stain of it is on his hands.

There would be some rather sensational catches in spiritualistic circles in England if the police were to act as they do in Berlin. For a long time, Anna Abend, a German "medium," with something more than a German reputation, had made a great deal of cash by introducing departed spirits to all classes of Berlin society. The other evening the police obtained entrance to one of this enterprising lady's *seances*, and immediately a departed soul became visible in the darkness they declared the proceedings closed in the name of the law, grabbed the departed soul, and held on until the gas was turned on and it materialised as—Anna Abend. As is always the case, the Spiritualists present still refuse to believe they have been the victims of a vulgar swindle; being an invincibly credulous folk. Nevertheless, Anna will have to stand her trial; unless, that is to say, she can dematerialise herself and vanish nebulous to the astral plane.

It is not necessary to go to coroners' inquests to learn how hard it is for many people to live, or how easy it is for them to die. But now and again they do make the tragedies of the poor more than ordinarily vivid, for we see the victims with all the lights up, and are saddened, humiliated, perhaps angered, at the terrible inequalities of our social existence. Sitting at Acton, a few days since, the West Middlesex Deputy Coroner and a jury investigated the death of a widow who had been employed as ironer in a laundry. It was told how she had to iron nine articles to earn 2d.; that her average daily earnings were 1s. 10½d.; and that one day she had to work from 8.15 a.m. to 3 p.m. in order to earn a shilling. The manageress of the laundry explained that the woman was "too ill to do much work"; and the verdict of the jury was "Death from heart failure, owing to insufficient nourishment." In other words, the woman could not get sufficient food to keep her alive. Many will say she should have gone into the workhouse, or taken outdoor relief. That is, perhaps, unanswerable. But the pride of the poor is often invincible. The workhouse and the system of which it is the focus and epitome are at present the nation's only solution to the hunger problem. It is a crude solution at its best, and at its worst it is almost vicious. How long shall we suffer it? When—when will our political gods tumble it into the dust and breathe into a new system the spirit of a more helpful and more fraternal humanity?

The Spanish Government is certainly not afflicted with an excess of modesty. The Ambassador in Paris has had the effrontery to appeal to the French Government to restrain the violence of the Press in its comments on the execution of Ferrer; but Briand has very properly replied that he cannot interfere with the liberty of the French Press, which is entitled to make comments on all public matters. We have not yet heard that the gentleman in Grosvenor Gardens has applied to Sir Edward Grey for an injunction against JOHN BULL.

Applicants for that £1,000 a year job under the London County Council have not had long to wait for confirmation of what we wrote in our issue of October 16th. In brief, we then stated that, notwithstanding the Council's advertisement inviting applications, the gentleman to be appointed to the post had already been selected, and was "actually in training for the job by doing it. There is no vacancy." The Council met on Tuesday afternoon last week, when Mr. F. W. Mackinney, Assistant Clerk of the Council, was appointed. The other three hundred applications were ignored. We know nothing as to the qualifications of the gentleman to whom the majority of the members were pledged many months—from the moment, indeed, that it was decided the Council should have a "buyer", nor have we anything to say against the principle of giving public officials a lift up whenever it can be done in the interests of public service. But we do protest against the farce and humbug of inviting applications for a post which is not actually vacant, merely that the Council may save their faces. It is an insult and an outrage.

What was described as a "curious burial custom" was reported at a recent meeting of the Warmley Rural District Council. The Medical Officer said that it was a common fashion in the district to "keep a dead body for some nine or ten days, so as to have a Sunday burial." Evidently the week is longer at Warmley than elsewhere; or perhaps they have to save up for a few days to do the thing right. Anyway, the body is displayed for the admiration and behoof of all beholders "in the best parlour." Some of these shows consist of corpses full of the microbes of infectious diseases; and the Medical Officer suggested that handbills should be circulated mentioning that these delectable entertainments were illegal as well as undesirable and unhealthy. The Council disagreed. Warmley is a dull hole, and probably some of the members of the Council thought that if there were no dead 'uns to go and look at, it would be duller still; did not, in fact, know how they would be able to observe the Sabbath properly without the stimulus of a morning nip to the health of the dear departed. Warmley would have liked the Irishwoman who "waked" the buckle of her drowned husband's belt, and buried with due decorum the pike in whose belly it was found.

The people of this country have too much confidence in the tact and constitutional correctness of the King greatly to heed the hysterics of Mr. Keir Hardie, who publicly informs us that so long as His Majesty does not interfere in politics he can be tolerated, but that if he does so interfere, certain awful things will happen. Mr. Keir Hardie has not yet learned, and presumably never will learn, the futility of wild speculations in improbabilities. The King has established rights and privileges under the Constitution, and it almost goes without saying—with such a King—that whatever he has done, or tried to do, to patch up a peace between Mr. Asquith and Lord Lansdowne, he has not acted contrary to the counsel of his responsible constitutional advisers for the time being. The King has no politics; but, unlike Mr. Keir Hardie, our respect for His Majesty does not permit us to assume that he has no commonsense.

In commenting upon the audiences given by the King to Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Balfour, and, subsequently, to Mr. Asquith, most of our contemporaries have assumed that the King simply listened to the views of these statesmen upon the situation. It would be highly unconstitutional, said one leading journal, for the King to take the initiative in an attempt to arrive at an understanding. It is for the Prime Minister to advise the King, said the *Daily News*, not for the King to instruct the Premier. And these and other journals insist that even if the King were tempted to intervene, he would not dream of doing so before the Budget had actually passed the House of Commons. Our contemporaries are all wrong as to what the Sovereign may or may not do in the way of directing events. Not to go further back than the last reign, note what happened over the Irish Church Bill. The session that saw it passed opened on February 15th, 1869. It was known that a Bill for the Disestablishment of the Irish Church would be the chief measure of the session. On the same day that Parliament met the Archbishop of Canterbury received an autograph letter from the Queen, in which Her Majesty asked his Grace to see the Prime Minister with the object of getting better terms for the Church than those which Mr. Gladstone was expected to offer. The letter concluded, "The Archbishop had best now communicate with Mr. Gladstone direct as to when he can see him."

That was before the Bill had been tabled. Mr. Gladstone had not as yet made public any authoritative statement of the shape which his Disestablishment policy was to assume, but on February 22nd, the Archbishop informs the Queen that Mr. Gladstone had given him the outline of it. On March 1st, the House of Commons was put in possession of the Government plan. On May 31st, the Bill was sent up to the House of Lords, and on June 4th the Queen instructs General Grey to urge the Archbishop to do his utmost to prevent the hot-headed among the Peers throwing out the Bill, and the Queen asked the Archbishop to address her direct. This he did on June 6th and June 7th, and in his letter of June 7th, the Archbishop urges the Queen to put pressure on Lord Granville to make a conciliatory speech, and this Her Majesty does. On July 11th, whilst scores of amendments had still to be considered, the Queen writes to the Archbishop urging him to do his utmost to persuade the Peers not to insist upon amendments that would wreck the Bill. "Beyond question," writes the present Archbishop of Canterbury, in his life of Dr. Tait, "it was to the Queen and the Archbishop that the compromise was mainly due."

We saw the same intervention in 1884, when the Lords were at loggerheads with the Commons about the Franchise Bill. "Sir Henry Ponsonby," writes Mr. Morley, in his "Life of Gladstone," "*of course at the Queen's instigation*, was indefatigable and infinitely ingenious in inventing devices of possible compromise between the Lords and Commons." And although at the outset the Queen did not directly communicate with Lord Salisbury, she did with some members of the Opposition, notably the Duke of Richmond, and it was the Queen's suggestion that ultimately brought about that historic interview when Lord Salisbury and Sir Stafford Northcote "took tea" with the Prime Minister and settled the business.

"Never," said the Duke of Northumberland, in his speech at Newcastle, "was there a period within political recollection when the exertions of everyone who loves his country were more imperative." Quite so. But is it a sign of the Duke's love of his country that he permits cottages on his estate to become so unfit for human habitation that magistrates have no option but to order them to be demolished?

A very heartless rascal has been brought to book at last, and we are sorry that he has to go to gaol for no more than three months. We refer to Mr. Sam Gale, *alias* Noel Cody, otherwise known to the music-halls as "The Mighty Medicine Man," and "The Great Chief of the Red Indians." Gale has earned a living partly by pistol-shooting, lassooing, and stock whip trickery; partly by selling permanganate of potash and water to blind people as a certain cure for their affliction. A more wicked and hideous imposition it would be hard to conceive; yet, as we have remarked, he can go on doing it all over again three months hence. The same day that he was sentenced, a Mr. Frederick Mason was also sentenced. Mr. Mason had a bit of bad luck some time ago; and he may not be "one of the best." But he had been in sore straits, his home sold up, himself and wife and five children evicted and driven to live, on his casual labour, in one room. At his wits' end, he went to various firms and borrowed directories from them, pretending that other firms had asked him to call. He sold the directories, and gave his wife the money; and he has got nine months for it. When he comes out, he may try his hand on the deaf and dumb.

Colonel Ivor Maxse, D.S.O., must now look to his laurels. When he was shown to have lifted a great part of Mr. Churchill's "River War," he kept on saying nothing, like the Tar-baby, and further publicity was avoided. But a certain Jack London, having incorporated in a book one of Mr. Frank Harris's articles, has committed the blunder of replying—a blunder almost worse than his crime. Instead of donning sack-cloth, he treats the whole matter as a huge jest. He talks airily of "the usual charge of plagiarism," says he really ought to be hanged, and banters Mr. Harris at either having no sense of humour or being "a very guileless (*sic*) young man." London evidently perceives some subtle distinction between picking a pocket and picking a brain. Otherwise he would not expect Mr. Harris, however guileless, to laugh heartily at the discovery of a strange hand exploring the recesses of his fob. London describes himself in a work of reference as a socialist and oyster-pirate. He also announces that he has had "more than one jail-experience." Unfortunately however, there is no imprisonment for literary theft.

Apropos our recent paragraph concerning the will of the late Mr. R. S. Collinge penalising his daughters in the event of their or their husbands, embracing the Catholic faith, our attention has been called to another aspect of the same dead-hand fanaticism—in the case of Mr. Wm. H. M. Yelverton, of Whitland Abbey, Carmarthen, who died last March leaving a considerable estate, with the stipulation that none of it should ever be held by anyone but a Roman Catholic. Any legatee not of that faith, and who does not embrace it within a year, is to be disinherited. We have never for a moment suggested that bigotry is confined to any particular sect. If so, it would be easier to get rid of it.

At the League meeting, we mentioned the administration of Charitable societies as one of the things which we shall keep our eyes on. We have before us the Report and Balance Sheet of the Salford Civic League of Help. The ordinary subscriptions amounted to £299 2s., and there were "Subscriptions for Special Cases, 16s." The Expenditure shows "Relief of Special Cases, 16s." So far so good. Now as to the £299 2s. "Secretary's Salary and Expenses" absorbed £145 16s. 8d.; Rent, £24; Printing and Advertising, £70; Postages, Petty Cash, and Telephone, £28; Furniture, £22—leaving a balance of less than £10 in hand—and *not a penny piece distributed* in "Civic Help"! And a firm of Chartered Accountants certify that they have examined the balance sheet and "found it correct." *We* find it a fraud.

What is a noxious weed? Mr. T. W. Russell's Bil which is to prevent the spread of it in Ireland, defines a noxious weed" as "any plant declared by an Order of the Department under this Act to be a noxious weed." surely such a clause is opening the door to possibilities of serious injustice to the weeds of ould Ireland; and we shall await with feverish interest the action of these Nationalists in the matter. Power is granted to the Department, so to speak, to rearrange the whole realm of Irish botany. Still, when you come to think of it, a more precise definition might not be easy. There is a growing indignation in this country, by the way, against the manner in which careless, dirty, ignorant farmers and gardeners damage the crops of their neighbours by infecting them with diseases or pests. Some countries have utilised the law to prevent this state of things, which is felt by suburban gardeners as well as horticulturists and agriculturists on a larger scale. We think the effective methods here will be found to lie in more practical elementary education, and the inculcation of self-respect and decent feeling among the young—especially the rural young.

More than once we have protested against the half-cooked slop poured out from time to time by pretended scientists who are really self-advertising mountebanks. We are glad to see Professor Armstrong at the British Association meetings at Winnipeg taking up our parable. Formerly scientific men who thought themselves on the eve of a discovery of some interest used to confer with other workers in the same direction. Nowadays, there seems to be a general fear that somebody else may find out something, or, at any rate, that he may be first to scribble about it in the popular magazines. This is bad for those scientific men who matter, and worse for the public. The wrong spirit is fostered in the laboratory, and the nerves of the people are set on edge unnecessarily. How many times has a cancer cure been discovered in the past ten years? One day no doubt half the money we now waste on so-called education will be laid out on the endowment of research. Then our scientists, being sure of three hundred a year, may leave off penny-a-lining sensationalism, puffing currants, and recommending Mr. X.'s gingerbread.

Some of these judges have a queer idea of what sends up the sales of a newspaper. In the City of London Court the *Daily News* has been suing a Leeds chemist for an account which he declined to pay, alleging that our spiritual contemporary did not publish as many copies as it said it did. The defendant lost his action. In the course of the case Judge Rentoul said he could understand that circulation would vary according to the news of the day; "a speech by the Prime Minister would make all the difference." True, the *Daily News* may, or may not, be in a special position; but in regard to ninety-nine newspapers out of every hundred a speech by the Prime Minister, or a speech by anybody else, prime or otherwise, would not increase the circulation a ha'porth. For circulation purposes we will back a malign murder, or a beautiful burglary, a magnificent mystery, or a wonderful winner against the finest political oration ever delivered by a fellow creature.

Mr. Cadbury says he wishes for Free Trade in cocoa. We presume that his yearning applies also to chocolate. This is what a large firm of importers tells us:—

> Chocolates imported into this country from America pay, under the existing tariff, duties from three to four times as heavy as those paid by English manufacturers producing similar goods. It is therefore altogether impossible for American productions to compete in this country as far as the greater part of the trade is concerned. The present duty on cocoa products (*i.e.*, chocolate) thus constitutes a tariff wall which practically secures English manufacturers from American competition.

Sir Edward Grey has actually consented to enter the vulgar arena and make a speech. Happily he does not often offend in this way, otherwise his fictitious reputation for wisdom would have been dispelled long ago. His own anxiety seems to be to avoid European wars at all costs, even when this country runs no risk of being involved. No doubt peace is a very excellent thing, but it does not occur to this Whig that it ought to be accompanied with some slight regard for honour. He seems to take credit for the subsidence of recent crises in the Balkans, even though he must be aware that gross injustice resulted. He has also laid down the very dangerous axiom that we must on no account interfere with the internal affairs of other countries. In other words, the Great Powers are to give up all claim to be regarded as the moral policemen of the world. No injustice or barbarism is so abominable as to warrant the mildest protest. Such a protest is contemptuously condemned as knight-errantry. It is time that we realised our responsibility as a great empire.

Mr. Barnes, M.P., apparently poses as an authority on foreign affairs, but he gives himself away by speaking contemptuously of the late King Alexander of Servia. We agree that the execution of Señor Ferrer amounted to a judicial murder, but for barbarism and fiendish savagery it is not, of course, to be mentioned in the same breath with the terrible tragedy in the palace of Belgrade.

By the way, in spite of the many hopes which have been cherished by decent Servians, the state of their unfortunate country appears to be going from bad to worse. Drunken Peter still staggers about his palace, and he has been driven to recall to power the corrupt rogue Pashitch, who was largely responsible for the murder of Captain Novakovitch. And Sir Edward Grey is rejoicing over the happiness and contentment which he imagines to prevail in the Balkans!

THE WEEK'S "CHESTNUT":—

She was a poor old woman, hearing for the first time the story of the Crucifixion. The parson was delighted at the impression he was making—until, with tears in her eyes, the dear old thing sobbed out, "Let us hope it isn't true!"

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE HAS ITS EYE ON—

THE MOCK CEREMONIAL MONGER AT FUNERALS.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

NOTICE.—No more biscuits to [illegible] deaths, or marriages, which creep in to the wrong column. Much too gruesome to be funny!

OLD WOMEN.—Biscuits are uncompromisingly denied to papers alluding to "old women of both sexes." There are so many of them.

WEDDINGS.—No biscuits for bridegrooms wearing picture hats and crepe de chine. Why shouldn't they?

For the following advice: "Don't marry before you have an assured position. Many boys want to marry the first girl that takes their fancy. ABOUT THIRTY IS QUITE ENOUGH TO MARRY,"

MR. GAMAGE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the presentation consisted of a brass fender, fire irons, rests, and a fire-screen, IN A NEAT SPEECH,"

THE SUSSEX DAILY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the best days to see flying are the days on WHICH FLYING ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE,"

THE DAILY DISPATCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising "Very pretty 9ct. curb bracelet, set round wool: 10s. 6d. *to* KIND HOME ONLY AS PET DOG,"

THE LADY
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising "Draw for WIDOW AND CHILDREN *of the late R. Turton,"*

THE NANTWICH CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising "Good gun, or VIOLIN FOR KILLING POULTRY,"

THE FEATHERED WORLD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For alluding to "a young widow LIVING APART FROM HER HUSBAND,"

THE ESSEX WEEKLY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For describing Herd as standing "with his right foot in an IMPOSSIBLE POSITION,"

THE DAILY MIRROR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that "About ten per cent. of the children were found to have insufficient HEADGEAR, *but the gift of 622 free pairs of* CLOGS *will serve as a palliative,"*

THE CHESHIRE COUNTY NEWS
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For reporting a death "*SUDDENLY, *after a* LONG AND PAINFUL ILLNESS,"

THE JEWISH CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that "the expression of goodwill took the form of a handsome set of solid LIVER *salts,"*

THE SHEFFIELD INDEPENDENT
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that "at the first meeting of the creditors, NO CREDITORS *attended the meeting,"*

THE DRAPERS' RECORD
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

*For stating that "*FREE *dancing and* FREE *skating may be enjoyed for the* NOMINAL CHARGE *of 6d.,"*

THE MAGNET
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing a wedding to "take place on Saturday AFTERNOON *at the unusual hour of* ELEVEN IN THE MORNING,"

THE DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For reporting that: "Hundreds of fashionable visitors, in addition to the players, made Eastbourne their objective solely owing to the vogue which the fixture enjoys as a reunion for the DEMI-MONDE,"

THE EASTBOURNE CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

OPEN LETTERS, POST-CARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To Lord Loreburn, Lord High Chancellor of England.

My Lord,—It appears about time that you interfered to secure the proper administration of justice at Llandovery, in Carmarthenshire. Obviously there are too few magistrates on the Commission of the Peace, or those who are on it regard their duties with an irresponsibility bordering on indifference. There is only one magistrate resident in the town, and the other day he did not appear upon the bench until nearly noon. As no other magistrate had appeared an hour later, the Court had to be adjourned. Several efforts were subsequently made to get other justices to attend, but without success, and not until ten minutes past two in the afternoon was the Mayor able to take his seat on the bench, and make proceedings possible. Justices who cannot, or will not, perform their duties ought not to remain on the Commission of the Peace. See to it, my Lord.

John Bull.

To Mr. Justice Grantham, Royal Courts of Justice, London.

M'Lud,—I am informed that your lordship has been placed on the rota as a judge appointed to try election petitions. Your lordship has already distinguished yourself in this capacity, and I should have thought your judicial dignity would have led you to excuse yourself from an office which, above all things, demands complete mental detachment from the party spirit. But the strong political bias of your mind not only places you at a disadvantage, but weakens public confidence in your decisions. In these circumstances, is it too much to hope that your lordship will withdraw your name from the rota, so that another of His Majesty's Judges, with a reputation less suspect, and a judicial temperament more delicately balanced, may take your place?

John Bull.

To M. Lepine, Prefecture of Police, Paris.

Monsieur,—I admire your pluck and congratulate you on your luck. You are certainly an elusive target for the revolvers of anarchists, and journalists have some excuse for attributing to you a charmed life, though it is, perhaps, about time that they invented a fresher expression. But I cannot say that I admire you as an institution. While France is nominally a republic, with watchwords of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity, you are the living embodiment of the tyranny which has increased in severity ever since your country banished its kings. Over here, we complain of our killjoys and our frowsy fanatics, but their loins are not so thick as the little finger of the autocracy of the French middle-classes. I understand that you are a wonderful organiser of spies and that your police retain a good deal of the ingenuity which has been skilfully glorified in the works of Gaboriau. But there must be a limit to what even the French can stand, and I am sure that you will agree with me that the revolutionary forces are spreading their influence throughout your country with dangerous rapidity. I confess I do not envy you when the next Reign of Terror comes along.

John Bull.

To H.R.H. Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria.

Sir,—It is too bad that the desire of your heart, for which you have intrigued and struggled and risked your life during all these long years, should still be denied you. Lives and liberties have been sacrificed to enable you to wear a cloak of purple plush and an imperial crown. You have even persuaded the Chanceries of Europe to address you as a king, almost as emperor. But now a difficulty has arisen about your coronation. It appears that, according to the Orthodox faith, a crown can only be conferred upon a member of the Orthodox Church in an Orthodox country. Religious difficulties have confronted you before now, and you overcame them at the last crisis by assenting to the conversion of your infant heir. I do not suppose that conscientious scruples would affect you very seriously when your ambitions were at stake. But if you abandoned your creed, you would lose the patronage of your good friend Francis Joseph, and you might lose much more than you gained. It is all a question of whether you consider Sofia worth the sacrifice of the Mass. If not, you will have to follow the example of Napoleon Buonaparte and put your crown on your head yourself. Otherwise, I see nothing for it but that you should learn to ride, and then gallop away over the frontier one fine day. On behalf of your repulsive subjects, I beg leave to assure you that your departure would not cause an aching void in their hearts.

John Bull.

To William George, Esq., Education Committee, Carnarvon.

Dear Sir,—As the brother of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, don't you think that you might speak of the military forces of the Crown with a certain amount of respect. Surely there was not very much harm in the resolution proposed to the Education Committee that assistant masters in the schools of the Council should be given facilities for joining the Territorials. No pressure of any kind was to be put upon them, and I have no doubt many of the teachers would have been glad to know that in joining the Home Defence Army they would not be prejudiced in the eyes of the Committee. And yet you jumped up in almost furious protest. "It tends to promote a military spirit in the country," you said; "it simply fosters a spirit of bastard patriotism." These are the wild words of muddled thought. The Territorial Army is with us. It is a force recruited by the voluntary service of our citizens. It has been called into being to keep inviolate the shores of our fatherland. And all this a son of "gallant little Wales" vilifies as "bastard patriotism." You amaze me and you disgust me. Go to for an ungrateful son—and brother.

John Bull.

To the Town Clerk, Bournemouth.

Dear Sir,—I notice in one of the German papers an advertisement, apparently issued by your Town Council, in which it is not only claimed to be the health resort of the Kaiser, but that it combines the beauties of Karlsbad with the amusements of Ostend. Imagine a German being lured to Bournemouth by such a perversion of the truth! I should not be amazed if he waited upon the mayor and indignantly demanded that his expenses should be refunded, especially if he happened to arrive on a Sunday!

John Bull.

To Hilaire Belloc, Esq., M.P.

Dear Belloc,—Why are you so demonstrative in your defence of the Spanish Government? I have always regarded you as more or less of a republican, and here you are creating disorderly scenes and shouting "rubbish, rubbish," merely because somebody protests against the judicial murder of a distinguished teacher. If you go on in this way, I shall really have to send you back to the French Army.

John Bull.

Paul Taylor, Esq., Marylebone Police Court.

Congratulations! You have decided that reproductions of old masters do not become indecent merely because they are printed on postcards. At the same time you ordered such cards to be destroyed, and you imposed heavy fines. What logic! What unctuous rectitude!

Bull.

Jim Jeffries, Pugilist, New York.

Apropos your allegation that if nigger Johnson does go into ring with you he'll be counted out in no time, suggest you turn off the gas till you've put on the gloves.

Bull.

Lord Charles Beresford, Army and Navy Club, London.

Hear you are to contest West Belfast next election. At present Nationalists have a Devlin. Think you can get him out?

Bull.

"UP THE POLE."

The Pearys, Cooks, and Shackletons,
The Scotts and Wellmans too,
All give themselves, it seems, much useless trouble;
Until to-day I thought it was
A noble thing to do,—
But Lady Blount, alas, has pricked the bubble!

Said she, "The Earth is flat, and has
No axial point at all—
To search the North or South is foolish, very."
Great *Scott!* the Lady President
Of the Zetetical
Has *Cook'd* the goose of *Shackleton* and *Peary!*

W. M.

Can any of our readers give us information respecting the Trades Directories, Ltd., Head Office, Lochend Road (West), Edinburgh?

A "BABY" PARSON.

HOW A MIDDLE-AGED VICAR WAS "CARRIED AWAY BY SYMPATHY" FOR A YOUNG GIRL.

One of our readers in Wales takes exception to the paragraph that appeared in our issue of October 9th, in which we deprecated the action of certain young men in Westmoreland who, moved to indignation by a rumour that the Vicar of the Parish had been improperly attentive to a schoolmistress, tarred and feathered him. We have nothing to retract or modify in that comment, but we are bound to say that the point taken by our correspondent has force in it. He says it is all very well to talk about an appeal to the Bishop or the Ordinary, but such an appeal is useless. The Bishop, no doubt with the best intention, shields his Vicar, or if he does not shield him, he is powerless to punish him. Our correspondent gives us his own case, which certainly supports his contention, and is sufficiently noteworthy to warrant our referring to it at some little length.

The Rev. Joseph Llewlyn Thomas, a man of 50, is Vicar of Aberpergwm in the diocese of Llandaff. Our informant is, or was at the time of the occurrence to which we are about to refer, one of his parishioners. He was not only a parishioner, but the Vicar was in the habit of enjoying his hospitality, never a week passing without his being his guest. Our informant's family consisted of himself, his wife, and a daughter between fifteen and sixteen years of age. The father noticed glances between the Vicar and his daughter, which caused some uneasiness, but his wife pooh-poohed the idea of anything wrong, and for a time the father was satisfied. But soon it came to his knowledge that his daughter was corresponding with the Vicar, and upon taxing her with the correspondence, she admitted it. He then met the Vicar and upbraided him for involving a young girl in a correspondence of the kind. The Vicar attempted to laugh it off by saying that it was quite harmless. The father was not satisfied, and demanded an apology, which the Vicar refused. This is what he writes in a letter to the father :—

> As for ——'s few notes, they are perfectly harmless and such as probably many a girl before her, who was more or less unhappy at home, has written to an outside friend. . . . There is nothing more to be said.

The father thought there was a good deal more to be said, and said it, repeating his demand for an apology. Thereupon the Vicar sought to make it appear that the girl was running after him. In a letter to the father he writes :—

> I am extremely sorry that I had been so soft-hearted as to acknowledge myself to be carried away by sympathy with ——, and not having ignored her notes and disregarded her feelings. Call this an apology if you like, but I write as I feel.

Whatever their faults—and they have many, like the rest of us—the clergy of the Church of England are mostly gentlemen, but, as our quotation shows, there are exceptions. The father replied, repeating his demand for an apology, whereupon the Vicar writes him a very insolent letter, from which we take the following :—

> It is highly comic to think that a man of your type—a reviler of religion—can injure a clergyman. I shall still give you credit for more sense than to think that the clergy are at the mercy of men like you.

The father repeated his demand for an apology, and the Vicar was persuaded that he had better give it. Here it is :—

> I now heartily send you a full and unqualified one (*i.e.*, apology), and express my sincere regret for any annoyance I have caused you by my exchange of notes with, and attention given to ——

But having made the apology, he tries to nullify it by going on to say :—

> Anyone who knew all the circumstances would think I am taking too much blame upon myself.

It will be seen that this Vicar of fifty is still very anxious to have it believed that it was the girl of fifteen who was to blame, and not he. Considering this sort of apology to be adding insult to injury, the father decided to put the matter before the Bishop of Llandaff, the Vicar's diocesan. But before referring to what followed from that step, we may say that we are assured that there is not a syllable of truth in the Vicar's statement that the girl was unhappy at home, and as to the character of the letters he addressed to her, we can only quote the last, because with a prudence not always shown by men philandering after young women, the Vicar was most careful to insist upon the girl returning to him the next time she saw him each letter he wrote. Unfortunately for him, the last of the series she had not had the opportunity of returning when her father discovered the correspondence, and so crumpling it up she threw it into the wastepaper basket, where her father found it. And here it is :—

> Owing to the lesson I have had you will quite understand how cautious I must be in addressing you. This is only a wee note to acknowledge your loved one of last week, and to assure you that your father's abuse of me has made no difference in my feelings towards you. The mischief was done by Mr. and Mrs. ——, to whom I wrote of your father in confidence. I should advise you not to go there again, or to be very careful what you tell them, or they may betray you as they betrayed me. I am sorry, but we must discontinue these notes. This is the last I shall leave at Mrs. ——'s. If we accidentally meet, we can have a talk that will clear all matters. Let us hope that before long we shall meet under happier circumstances, and in the meantime feel towards each other as ever.—(Signed)
>
> BABY.
>
> Of course, you will tear this up.
>
> "Baby"!

We will leave it to our readers to say whether this sort of letter is a proper one for the Vicar ofa Parish to write surreptitiously to the young daughter of one of his parishioners.

The father wrote to the Bishop of Llandaff in October, 1907, and in reply was invited by the Bishop to call upon him. He did so, and as a consequence of his interview, sent his correspondence with Mr. Thomas to the Bishop. This was in the beginning of December, 1907. The Bishop kept the correspondence, but gave no reply to it, although invited to do so on more than one occasion. In May, 1908 the father instructed a solicitor to write to the Bishop, asking for the return of the letters, and this is the letter the father received in reply :—

> The Palace, Llandaff, Glamorgan.
>
> DEAR SIR, May 9th, 1908.
>
> Referring to your letter of the 2nd ult., and one that I received from Mr. E. Harries, of 3, Fisher Street, Swansea, I write to say that there is a possibility of the case being dealt with in another way in the near future. I am not at liberty at present to give any details, but I think you would be well advised to defer any further action in the matter a little while. I think it would be advisable that I should keep the letters a little longer, as it may be necessary to refer to them; but, of course, if after this explanation you still wish it, I will return them at once.
>
> I am, yours very truly,
>
> J. P. LLANDAFF.

But nothing was done, and that was the last letter or communication of any sort the father received from the Bishop until July last, when he received the following :—

> The Palace, Llandaff, Glamorgan.
>
> DEAR SIR, July 5th, 1909
>
> Referring to your letter of the 1st ult., and other correspondence, I have now the pleasure of returning the letters which you sent me on December 5th, 1907, as requested.
>
> I am, yours faithfully,
>
> J. P. LLANDAFF.

And there the matter rests. We do not suggest that it would be possible for the Bishop to punish the Vicar for his very improper correspondence with a young girl. As the law stands, we do not think it would lie, but we presume to say it is a case where the Vicar ought to have been admonished. Conceivably he has been, but if that be so, the father had the right to know that the Bishop has censured the action of the Vicar. For, if our information is correct, it is not the first time that this man has been at loggerheads with fathers in connection with his relations with their daughters. Be that as it may, there is obviously weight in our correspondent's defence of the Cumberland young men. He, himself, was moved to thrash the Vicar, but apart from other considerations, he happens to be a man still in the prime of life, and a sometime pupil of Jem Mace, and as the Vicar is without these advantages, it might have been thought cowardly to attack him. Of course, there are other good reasons, too, why assault was to be avoided, but if clergymen behave improperly towards the daughters of decent men—we should be very sorry to suggest that there are many Thomases among them—and Bishops refuse to do what they may in the way of punishment or reproof, the temptation to take the law into one's own hands becomes great. And that would be good neither for parson nor layman.

THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE.

(Objects: To oppose Cant and Self-Righteousness, to promote a robust Public Opinion, and to bring about a Business Government for a Business People.)

Everything Now in Working Order.

Branches Being Formed all over the Country—Great Enthusiasm Aroused by Inaugural Meeting.

A full verbatim report of the proceedings at the Inaugural Meeting of the League at the Royal Albert Hall on Trafalgar Day is now going to press, and will be ready in a few days' time, and a copy will be sent to every member of the League. Copies will also be on sale, price one penny, by post three-halfpence.

Great enthusiasm has been aroused as the result of the meeting, and branches of the League are being formed in all parts of the country. Arrangements are also being made for the President to visit the principal centres, and dates are now being fixed for Glasgow, Birmingham and Manchester—all of which will be visited during the present year. In the meantime, we shall be glad to hear from readers in those districts who are willing to co-operate with the Organising Secretary, with a view to making the meetings as successful as the Albert Hall demonstration.

The League Song was an enormous success, Mr. Leo Stormont being encored three times by the vast audience. The full words and music may be obtained on application to the Organizing Secretary, at 67, Long Acre, London, price 6d. post free.

The League badges for men and hat-pins for women members of the League are also ready, price 1s. post free.

It is the special wish of the President that every member should have a badge, to be worn at all meetings and other functions in connection with the League; whilst it is also suggested that by wearing it during travels, holidays, etc., it would act as an agreeable means of introduction between members from various parts of the country.

Readers of John Bull willing to act as Local Secretaries, should send their names at once to the Organizing Secretary at the Head Offices of the League, 67, Long Acre, London.

We are busy enrolling new members by the thousand, and shall not be content till we are a million strong.

There is no entrance fee or compulsory subscription, and all that readers desiring to join the League need do is to sign and forward to the Secretary the subjoined coupon. Any person of either sex is eligible for membership, irrespective of Party, race or creed.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

—:o:—

To be cut out and forwarded to the Secretary,

John Bull League,
67, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

THE THEATRICAL MISSION AND HOME

The Committee's Reply to a Recent Complaint.

This is what the Committee say in reply to the paragraph which appeared in our issue of the 9th October:—

"It is as untrue as it is unjust, for our homes do not turn adrift, as you imply, those who are unable to pay; only when the committee have been extremely long suffering and forbearing are they obliged to tell members that they cannot again be received or accommodated owing to lack of funds.

"The lady who is mentioned in your article is probably one who owes £9 15s. for rent, and who told us the other day that she had forgotten all about it. We have many others who owe sums of £5 and over that amount. We do not profess to be a relieving society, but it is absolutely false that all must pay.

"As to your criticisms of our founder and president the committee treat them with the contempt they deserve. The work has been carried on for the past 33 years with great success, and will be carried on in spite of all criticisms which you and others may lavish upon it.

"The accounts are audited every quarter, and the honoured treasurer is Mr. F. Robertson, a well-known London banker, and not the president as you imply.

"As to lavishly furnishing the new home, we may say that this also is a serious mistake on your part."

Of course, we willingly publish this letter. Perhaps some other readers, who may have had experience of the Mission and Home, will give us their ideas. Meanwhile, we suspend judgment.

A RENEGADE JEW.

"Converting" Men or Money?

A reader, rightly viewing with suspicion any professed proselyte from Judaism who appeals to Christians for funds to enable him to "convert" his race, sends us a letter his father has received from one A. Rosenstrauch, Organising Secretary of the West London Fund for the Jews, 312, Regent Street. This interesting communication, after referring reproachfully to the rough handling of the writer by our correspondent, and regretting his attitude, "as it is not characteristic of his illustrious father," goes on to admit that he has been helped several times. He sets up the plea of bad health, and thinks his correspondent will agree he has suffered for the Christian faith, winding up with the cool request for a "loan" of £5. Rosenstrauch is, however, thoroughly undeserving, as he earns his livelihood in this canting way, and his "mission" is all humbug.

OUR BUSINESS GOVERNMENT COMPETITION.

We hope to complete our adjudication of the claims in connection with this competition within the next ten days. The work is very heavy.

FILLING THE KNAPSACK.

Mr. Asquith: "How does that fit, boss?"
J. Bull: "Er—I think I can—er—stand it if you—er—take the licensing clauses out."

THE MUSICAL EDUCATOR.

A Library of Instruction in Music.

Written by EXPERTS.

The aim of "The Musical Educator" is to supply, in compact form, a complete Musical Education. Each department of musical knowledge is undertaken by an expert, and the work is an authoritative guide on everything relating to Music and Singing. The illustrations are particularly valuable; they portray the different instruments, attitudes in playing, &c., and include Five beautiful Frontispieces, and Reproductions of valuable Photographs.

We would especially draw attention to the following names of Leaders in the Musical world, and of the subjects for which they are responsible. The practical value of these sections will be apparent to all students and professors of music and singing.

MARK HAMBOURG.
"The Piano and How to Play it."

EDWIN H. LE. MARE.
"The Art of Organ-Playing."

MADAME MARCHESI.
"The Teaching of Singing."

JOHN DUNN.
"On Playing the Violin."

D. F. H. COWEN.
"The Art of Conducting."

The titles of a few of the sections are appended; every section is written by an expert.

Course on Voice Training, Singing, and Solfeggio. Course on the Pianoforte. On the Violin. On Harmonium and American Organ. On the Organ. Lessons on Scientific Basis of Music. On Rudiments of Music. Course on Harmony and Counterpoint. Lessons in Canon and Fugue. Lessons in Musical Forms, Analysis and Composition. Articles on the Instruments used in Orchestras and in Bands. History of Music. Articles on Children's Music and Musical Drill, on Choir Training and Conducting. Article on Congregational Music. Biographical Dictionary of Musicians. Article on Musical Degrees. Nationality in Music.

Appreciations.

Sir J. Frederick Bridge, Mus. Doc., Organist at Westminster Abbey:
"The 'Musical Educator' is full of useful information plainly set forth. The musical illustrations are excellent."

Mr. Chas. J. Wingard, 29, Aberdeen Terrace, Tyne Dock:
"I find it of inestimable value in the education of my children, and also of great benefit to myself. The lessons are so graded that anyone should be able to make himself efficient by their study."

A FREE BOOKLET.

CAXTON PUBLISHING COMPANY,
SURREY STREET, LONDON, W.C

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, your illustrated prospectus of "The Musical Educator," and particulars of your plan by which the five volumes are delivered for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by a few small monthly payments.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard, mentioning "John Bull")

Address .....

.....

THE MODERN PHYSICIAN.

By Dr. ANDREW WILSON.

A work that justifies its claim to be a complete guide to the attainment and preservation of health—as well as a practical teacher of the nature and symptoms of all diseases—is a work to be hailed as a household friend. Such a book is "The Modern Physician," by Dr. Andrew Wilson.

The Book for the Home.

The section devoted to Hygiene, otherwise known as preventive medicine, includes the full exposition of the laws of health, and special attention is devoted to physical culture. First Aid and Ambulance Work is fully treated.

Descriptions of every part of the frame will be found in "The Modern Physician," the skeleton muscles, digestive system, heart and lungs, brain and nervous system, organs of sense, skin, kidneys, etc., etc., being fully explained and illustrated.

In this connection the coloured "mannikins" or "dummies," in which the various organs overlap each other precisely as they do in the human body, are very useful in making the reading matter clear.

The section devoted to "The Family Medicine Chest" gives the description, uses and doses of drugs, as drops, lotions, ointments and gargles.

The section dealing with cooking for Invalids gives a complete collection of valuable recipes.

Volume V. deals entirely with the Health and Diseases of Women. It will be found useful to mothers who wish their daughters to grow up into healthy women. Midwifery and the diseases of infants and children are fully treated.

There is a section devoted to Invalid Cookery, and a complete series of physicians' prescriptions will be found both reliable and useful.

It is safe to say that in a large household embracing human items of every age or sex, the point of doubt or difficulty, the unexpected accident or emergency, could not arise that could not be immediately and satisfactorily dealt with, with this splendidly practical work at hand. It saves its cost before it has been in use for a month.

Mr. Wm. Webb, 102, Queensland Street, Liverpool writes:
"'The Modern Physician' ought to be in every household in the land, and it is certainly no fault of yours should it not be so, for the price at which it is published is reasonable, and the terms of subscription exceptionally easy."

Mr. A. H. Hart, 18, Canbery Park Road, Kingston-on-Thames:
"Three things especially impressed me: The up-to-date character of the work; the simplicity of the language used; and its practical value. It is creditable alike to Editor and Publisher."

A FREE BOOKLET.

CAXTON PUBLISHING COMPANY,
SURREY STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Please send me, free of charge, and without any obligation on my part, illustrated booklet on "The Modern Physician," and particulars of your plan whereby the five volumes are delivered for a first payment of 1s. 6d., the balance being paid by small monthly payments.

Name.....
(Send this form or a postcard, mentioning "John Bull.")

Address.....

.....

A HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY.

By ROBERT FREKE GOULD.
Barrister-at-law, Past Senior Grand Deacon of England.

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SIDELIGHTS ON THE KING EDWARD VII. SANATORIUM.

INVESTIGATION URGENTLY NEEDED.

By an Ex-Patient.

Situate near Midhurst in Sussex, is the King's Sanatorium, or to give it its full title, "The King Edward the Seventh Sanatorium for Pulmonary Tuberculosis," which "is intended to afford accommodation for persons whose means are slender, etc.," see prospectus—and it is with the object of shortly considering the life there, from a patient's point of view, that these lines came to be written. Also, as a similar Institution is to be opened by her Majesty the Queen in the present autumn at Davos Platz, it is hoped a few facts as to Treatment may prove interesting.

The prospective patient generally arrives during the afternoon, and after a short interview with one of the doctors is shown to his room.

He then unpacks and as far as he is able stows his belongings into a small chest of drawers and a linen wardrobe—the latter reminding one of a child's Noah's Ark stood on end—but somewhat bigger.

The rooms themselves are quite devoid of any unnecessary furniture—a small bed, washstand, and a couple of chairs completing the outfit.

The doors giving on to the balcony are wide open, and the entrance door generally so fixed that there is continually what the nurses euphemistically term "cross-ventilation"—a "most unholy draught" would be nearer the mark!

Summary of the Routine.

In the morning one is aroused at about 7.30 by the most awful din imaginable—on enquiry, it is found to be the gong and it is time to get up. Then comes tubbing, dressing and breakfast at 8.30—an hour later the gong is heard again, this time for patients to return to their rooms to be interviewed by their medical officer, who prescribes rest, exercise or work—his decision being entirely governed by what one's temperature was at 7 o'clock the previous evening, and what it was on rising.

At noon, one hears the gong once more—this is for "rest hour" in bedrooms or balconies. Lunch is at 1.15 and afterwards recreation is allowed until 2.30 when rest or exercise begins again. Tea is at 4.30, and patients are free until 6, at which time it is rest hour again, dinner at 7.15, and bed, at 9.30, completing the day's routine.

Rule No. 2: "That it is his Majesty's desire that admission should be limited to those suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in an early stage," is, of course, rigidly enforced, so that as far as one can judge, about eighty per cent. of those admitted have no need for the "treatment" at all! A few week's rest and fresh air would put them in their normal good health.

But—and here comes the rub—these self-same quasi-invalids are necessary to the King's Sanatorium to bring up the average percentage of "cures" for the report presently to be presented to the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis.

For instance, a man who had put on *two stones* weight in eight weeks was told he must stay six months. It should be added in parenthesis that the average duration of stay is four months and the special sanction of the Committee is necessary for a patient to be allowed to remain longer!

Too Much Red Tape.

Rules permeate the whole place, and are very galling and some idiotic in the extreme. The writing room may only be used after 4.30 p.m., the post leaving at 5.45, so a room that accommodates but five people is only available for an hour a day for sixty men to write their letters—and writing elsewhere is strictly forbidden!

Again, a man of 40 had a business letter from a firm of brewers—after perusal he tore it up, but alcohol being taboo, the hall porter pieced it together again and took it to the chief, who read it, and the "culprit" was duly questioned by him!

Another patient casually mentioned that if he caught a certain contagious disease that was prevalent at the Sanatorium he would write to the committee. He was reported by one of the staff who overhead it, and duly "called over the coals" by the chief and dismissal threatened!

Therefore, a stay at Midhurst considerably alters an average man's preconceived ideas of the "cure of consumption," for one lives in a continual state of unrest and irritation owing to the aforementioned system of espionage—which is even practised by the kitchen lads—one's normal feelings becoming like those of a semi-guilty schoolboy, never knowing whether a "nurse-made" or other rule is being unwittingly broken or whether one is doing something that may excite the ire of some pettily-officious medico.

Itch and Ringworm.

The disease mentioned in an earlier paragraph is an aggravated form of ringworm, that attacks patients between the upper parts of the thighs. It apparently began in the summer of last year, and, although well aware of its existence, nothing was done by the authorities—beyond very niggardly doling out ointment—and then only at the patient's request—until December, when a deputation waited on the chief, with the result that patients were examined in a more or less perfunctory manner on a couple of occasions.

One man, however, awakened the doctors to a sense of the gravity of the disease. A couple of days or so before he was due to leave, having found he had contracted it, he told the medical superintendent point blank that having lost his money, he "declined to leave in that loathsome state, so he intended to remain at the Sanatorium's expense until cured." They cured him in a week!

In addition, at least one case of scabies or itch occurred, and even this was treated with that complacency which commonly passes for the "professional manner."

Bedrooms Cold and Damp.

The building itself stands on an eminence of some 500 feet or so, but the situation is exceedingly damp and misty.

This mist saturates everything in and about the place, even one's pillows frequently need airing before turning in, then only to be saturated again during the night, and the only way to ensure anything like dry underclothing or night attire is to keep a hot-water bottle in a drawer or wardrobe continuously.

Then, as soon as a slight rise occurs in temperature, the water runs down the walls and drops from the ceilings, flooding bedrooms and corridors alike.

Ultimately, during the very bitter spell in December last, the radiators in the patients' blocks were heated, with the result that many of them burst in a most disconcerting manner, flooding rooms and corridors for over a week! And this with a resident head engineer!

This débâcle caused the following notice to appear:—"Patients are particularly urged, in their own interests, to endeavour to keep their rooms above freezing point." But many a sufferer had been dressing, etc., with the temperature of his room at 25 degrees or so, and was told, "it was good for him," "fine curing weather," and so forth; but it will be observed the "treatment" is instantly altered as soon as the Sanatorium's property is placed in jeopardy. Patients were forbidden to close their doors before, but now they were enjoined to do so "in their own interests"!

The "Treatment."

This, then, is the treatment. So much food and so much rest or exercise, and the treatment of the individual case is only varied to this extent, therefore, if one's temperature rises, "rest" is prescribed; if normal, exercise or work; and if one does not get well under these rule-of-thumb conditions, the authorities have no use for the sufferer at the King Edward VII. Sanatorium, Midhurst.

Investigation Urgently Needed.

One of the patients confined to his bed with hemorrhage, was asked by the doctor for some extraordinary reason "what time in the day he was taken ill." He replied, "At such and such o'clock." The nurse chimed in with "Yes, doctor, at a most inconvenient time!" The medico said nothing. So any reader who contemplates taking the "cure" at Midhurst, must please bear in mind to have his hemorrhages at a time quite convenient to his nurse—or he may be "reported."

It is also instilled into one that it is an act of condescension on the part of the authorities to receive patients at all, and the slightest infringement of any rule will bring "instant dismissal"; in fact, the whole staff seem to be imbued with the idea, no doubt a perfectly correct one, that the institution is run for their exclusive benefit, and that the main part of their duties is to catch patients tripping!

All these unnecessary troubles of mind and body exist at a sanatorium under his Majesty's direct patronage, and where the patients pay £2 2s. per week for the treatment, and these fees must well cover the outlay involved, although one continually hears to the contrary. Finally, it does not appear to be a question as to whether the executive committee should look into these matters, but whether, they themselves, being equally culpable already, some other quite independent authority—*not* composed of medical men—should not thoroughly investigate these things and report to his Majesty direct, for the patients at this institution—who the rules specially stipulate must be *of good social position*—suffer such indignities and live under a system of petty officialdom that would not be tolerated by the non-paying inmates of any of our great London hospitals.

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Since we all know that there are not hundreds but thousands of men, who started life with exactly the same advantages and disadvantages, and who certainly worked as hard as did these Pioneers of Business Success, we must conclude that Success came more as a result of their sagacity than of their labour. Other men, equally honest, equally industrious, equally anxious, remained with the ruck that is ever painfully struggling just to keep going.

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It is worth any Business man's while—but especially is it worth the while of any young Business man—to ask, "How is It Done?"

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The answer is: "If you want to make money in Business, you must know all about Business. These are the men who know." And the knowledge on which this success is built is contained in the Business Encyclopædia. Its use constitutes the key to success in Business.

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AMONG THE LAWYERS.

A HARD CASE.

It is a popular fallacy that the moneylender is always on the right side of the hedge. As a rule, probably he is, but sometimes Greek meets Greek, and it is not always the moneylender who gets the best of the tug. We are reminded of this truth by a case that was before Mr. Justice Bucknill, in the King's Bench Division last week. It seems that Mr. R. J. S. Sullivan and Mr. Thomas E. Pyman, solicitors, of West Hartlepool, wanted £500, and they went to Mr. Charles Stone, now carrying on business with his brother Isadore as moneylenders in Jermyn Street, under the style of Charles Sterling, to get the money. Mr. "Sterling" agreed to lend it, the two solicitors signing a promissory note for £800, which was payable by four quarterly instalments of £200 each. When the time came for payment the borrowers "declined to pay anything." Hence the proceedings before Mr. Justice Bucknill. The defendants did not plead "harsh and unconscionable terms." Had they won on that plea they would have had to repay the £500, with £50, or something of that sort, for interest. It seems that before Mr. Stone went down to Jermyn Street he had carried on business in his own name as a moneylender in Bloomsbury Street, and subsequently at the same address in partnership with a Mr. Ford, under the style of George Pelly. The two solicitors went to Bloomsbury Street, where Mr. Stone explained to them that his name was Stone, that the business of George Pelly was being wound up, and that he had started business in Jermyn Street. The loan was actually made there later in the day. At the trial the two solicitors submitted that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover, since the Act does not allow a moneylender to carry on business in one place under his own name and in another place under an assumed name. Mr. Justice Bucknill thought it "a hard case," but he felt himself bound to give judgment for the defendants. They seem to have some smart solicitors West Hartlepool way. We are not quite sure that "smart" is the word, but it will serve.

COUNTY COURT PROCEDURE.

We have received a complaint from Weymouth as to the administration of the County Court in that town. The presiding judge is Mr. F. A. Philbrick, and the Court is held once a month for the purpose of hearing summonses, judgment summonses, and so on. Plaintiffs, defendants, witnesses, jurymen are ordered to be at the Court at 10 a.m. promptly, otherwise they subject themselves to certain pains and penalties. There can be no objection to the Court commencing its business at 10 a.m., but the complaint of the Weymouth business community is that although everybody concerned has to be in Court at that hour, their time is wasted, because the Judge is not there. We are assured that for at least 12 months past Judge Philbrick has not put in an appearance at Court until 12.30. We learn of one case of a business man who was plaintiff in a judgment summons, and was ordered as usual to be at the Court at 10 a.m. He duly appeared at the appointed time, but it was not until 12.45 that the Judge took his seat on the Bench. Again, not long ago, the manager of a large iron foundry, who was ordered to serve on a jury waited at the Court from 10 a.m. until 12 o'clock, and was fined £2 because, sick of waiting for the Judge to put in an appearance, he went out to get his lunch, and happened not to be present at the moment when his name was called. Probably this very unsatisfactory state of things is largely due to the age and infirmities of Judge Philbrick, who has been upon the bench for fourteen years, and was seventy-three last birthday. There ought to be a rule compelling County Court Judges, like other Civil servants, to retire at a certain age. It is bad enough that this rule should be suspended in the case of High Court Judges, but they at least, to do them justice, are mostly a tough lot, and if they continue to sit after they have passed three score years and ten, they are, with few exceptions, alert, physically as well as mentally.

"CENT. PER CENT."

Several correspondents send us their experience with Cox and Co. We select two. One writes:—

> I have read with great interest your article, "Cent. per Cent." I am going to tell you my case. In January, 1908, I went to Cox and Co., 32, Walbrook, then called Seymour and Whiteman. I borrowed £55 at—as I was led to believe—5 per cent., on a bill of sale. It was pointed out I was to pay £3 15s. the *first* month, as £2 15s. was the interest due on £55, and the £1 was to be off the principal. I was also told I could finish payments at *any* time, at, of course, 5 per cent. However, the bill of sale was made out for 55 months repayable £1 per month, and to my horror I found I had to pay 5 per cent. per *month*. So I should have paid more than cent. per cent. had I continued. From January to July they took possession twice, once on Whit Saturday, well knowing the man *must* remain till Whit Tuesday. Fortunately, I went to a dear priest, the Rev. H. Williams, St. John's, Tooley Street, Tower Bridge. He placed the business with Mr. Hawke, Rectory House, Martin's Lane. Cox and Co. sang small, and accepted the lawyer's terms. I am sure the Rev. H. Williams would be glad to assist any one with advice.

Another correspondent writes:—

> Cox and Co. have my bill of sale for £40. I have paid them £56 19s. 10d., and the way the principal diminishes leads me to suppose that the Day of Judgment will see me still owing Cox and Co. a bit. I still owe £23 principal, and the Lord (or Cox) only knows what interest.

WITNESSES OUT OF COURT.

When Lord Gorell was President of the Divorce Court he made a rule, in which Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane concurred, that all witnesses to be heard in contested cases should remain out of Court until their evidence was required. For some extraordinary reason or other, Mr. Justice Bigham has seen fit to alter this arrangement, as counsel learned with surprise the other day. The rule of Mr. Justice Bigham's predecessor is of unassailable advantage in getting at the truth, and we commend its adoption by the new President. We are not sure that it might not be followed in all Courts.

LEGAL ANSWERS.

Lodging Allowance.—V. H.—You are not entitled to claim anything, as when you gave up your bedroom you did not make a fresh arrangement as to your money.

Widow and Husband's Property.—Caught Again.—If a husband makes a will he can deprive the widow of all benefit, and she has no claim to any part of his estate

Widow's Right to Use of House.—C. E. P.—If the circumstances are such as to give the widow the right to dower she may claim the use of a portion of the property during her life as against the son. You should consult a solicitor.

Maintenance of Mother in Workhouse.—H. C. M.—A son is required to contribute towards the cost of keeping his mother if he is of sufficient ability. Your best course is to let the Guardians summon you, and then explain the position to the magistrate and ask him not to make any order, on the ground that you are not in a position to pay.

Foreign Tariffs.—W. S. G. (Kent).—If you write to the Board of Trade they will give you references to the Blue Books which contain information as to the tariffs abroad. The Agent-General for Canada, Charing Cross, London, S.W., will give you information as to the patent laws in that Dominion.

Extortion by Medical Man.—Medof.—Unless you specifically engaged the doctor for the confinement he was not entitled to book the case merely because he incidentally learned of the wife's condition. He would fail if he sued for the fee. As to the other charges, you should have refused to pay more than was agreed on.

Compensation for Injury.—C. C.—You are entitled to compensation based on your wages and other benefits, and you are not bound to accept a lump sum. As far as we can judge, you would be entitled to about 10s. a week for life as a maximum.

Income Tax on Mortgage.—W. W. (Catford).—You are bound to pay the tax over to the Crown, as you have no right to it. They can distrain for it.

Cabinet Minister's Pension.—A. B.—The length of service of a minister depends on the office he holds. The minimum period is four years. We have in previous issues given the whole scale for these pensions

Loan.—Troubled (Birmingham).—They are not entitled to recover the amount, the claim is more than six years old. Bondsman.—If the money was borrowed from some moneylender you have no answer to the claim.

Patent Law.—Cestue.—You can obtain full information as to patents by writing to the Patent Office, Southampton Buildings, London, W.C. Unless your patent is very complicated you ought to be able to draft your specification. Avoid all touting patent agents.

Right to Give Medical Advice.—L. P. (Prestwich).—You would be under no penalty if you advertised and then gave information as to the cure and did not supply any medicine. If you supplied anything as a cure you would have to use patent medicine stamps.

Advertising Claim.—E. H. (Cockpit Yard).—If you cancelled the order before it was executed you would not be liable, but we fear that you can be compelled to pay. You should write to the Registrar of the Court and state the facts.

Mortgaged Property.—New Reader (Holborn).—As far as we can judge, you have been swindled, but if everything has been done in a legal manner you would get no redress. When the mortgage was called in you should have got another elsewhere.

Ground Rent.—W. F. C. (Birmingham).—The landlord can bring an action for the ground rent and get judgment and levy execution on anything you possess.

County Court Costs.—Halford.—Thanks for your chirpy letter. The reply is quite accurate.

Companies' Accounts.—D. D. (Brook Green).—You will find many of the points raised in your letter dealt with in the last Companies Act.

Formation of Company.—L. B. S. (Oxford Street).—The figure given by the firm, whose letter you send us, to cover the cost of the formation of the company is very moderate, but if you wish to transfer your business into a joint stock concern, it would, we think, be better to employ a solicitor in the ordinary way.

Liability Upon Policy.—A. R. (Holytown).—If the agent accepted the premium in the way described by you the company would appear to be liable. We return your papers.

Loans by Post.—Our recent answer to a correspondent to the effect that a loan carried out through the post would not be legal has been modified by a decision in the case of Lavine *v.* Kilmorey, in which such a transaction was held to be good.

Income Tax.—(Christmas Daisy.)—She is not entitled to the return of the tax apart from her husband, as her income ought to be assessed with his, and he alone could apply for the return of the tax if their joint incomes are less than £160 a year.

Executor's Liability.—(Ex., Bradford.)—The executors are not liable for any thing beyond the amount realised, and they must divide this after paying all expenses, which are a first charge, such as funeral, etc.

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WHY HAIR TURNS GREY

When a person has grey hair before becoming fifty years old, everybody thinks this is a sign of mental decay. This is a great mistake, and very unjust to those who are afflicted. The reason is due to a slight disorder in the pigmentary glands of the scalp, sometimes caused by a shock or nervousness, and more often due to neglect of the hair.

But every person whose hair is turning or who is already grey, may now rejoice, for there has been discovered a perfect remedy. It is not one of those cheap and nasty dyes or stains, but it is a preparation which feeds and invigorates the pigmentary glands, causing renewed life and a return of the natural colour. It is perfectly harmless, its use cannot be detected, and the hair gradually darkens until it reaches the shade of the days of youth. It is equally good for men and women, and if any reader of this paper would like to try a bottle I will hand same to him or her free, with my compliments, at my office, or will send in plain sealed wrapper, if three penny stamps are enclosed for posting.—Prof. Paul Lind (Dept. 114 C), 54, Duke Street, Mayfair, London (two doors from Oxford Street).

What is Your Number?

See page iii. of cover.

LIPTON'S COCOA

The Most Nutritious.

Think for a moment of the real advantage of obtaining your Cocoa from a firm of world-wide repute, sole proprietors of Cocoa Estates, possessing the most recent and complete installation of Cocoa machinery, a firm whose unique positon makes it possible for them to sell the very Finest Quality Cocoa at a price only half the usual charge for high-grade Cocoa.

Such a firm is LIPTONS. They alone occupy the positions of GROWERS, MANUFACTURERS and RETAILERS, a combination which assures the Public

FINEST QUALITY,

ONE PROFIT, and

ONE PRICE,

PER 1/6 POUND.

which is within the reach of all.

ON SALE EVERYWHERE

LIPTON LTD.,

Cocoa Planters, Ceylon

"THE L.C.C. AND A WORKMAN."

A PLEA FOR AN ILL-USED MAN.

In our issue of October 16th we directed attention to the case of a man named Downham, of 54, Spade Street, Poplar, who, it will be remembered, was discharged from the service of the L.C.C., where he was a tram-conductor. The offence with which he had been charged was a technical one, and in our judgment the L.C.C. treated him very harshly in discharging him. But this did not end his trouble. They followed up their first injustice by something much more serious—they actually charged him with personating another man, and under this impersonation obtaining £1 11s. 3d. It would have been quite easy for them, if they had made ordinary and necessary inquiries, to have satisfied themselves that it was physically impossible that Downham could be guilty, seeing that he was far away from the place where the theft was alleged to have taken place. Not only did the Council officials neglect to do this, they went into Court and did their utmost to obtain a conviction upon evidence so weak that when two witnesses had been examined the Judge intimated that he wanted to hear no more, being satisfied of the innocence of the prisoner. And the jury were entirely with him in this opinion. One would have thought that having this plain demonstration of the injury they had done the man the Council would have been just and magnanimous enough to reinstate him. Instead they refused to do anything for him, and when Downham sued them for damages, he lost his case on the technical ground that no malice had been proved. We give below a letter we have received from a workman who comments upon the case. It seems to us it must represent the opinion of all decent men who have mastered the facts:—

> Having read in your most esteemed paper the plea for a much-wronged man, I consider it a crying shame that such a case as this should be permitted in this Free England. Where does justice come in in this country that a working man should be put in prison for about four days and lose his character and wreck his home, also losing his licence, the only means of getting his living, through no fault of his own, thereby causing suffering to his wife and four young children, not to mention the terrible anxiety to himself, in these days of keen competition for employment? Will no one take this case up for him and give a helping hand to one of their fellow-creatures?
>
> I am a working man myself, and I have sympathy for him, knowing that if he had the means he would have gained his case, and I earnestly hope someone will read this letter and give him practical help, and help him to lodge an appeal against this verdict of non-suited. Must a man receive no compensation for being wrongly charged and causing him such suffering and anxiety?
>
> Downham being discharged from the Court without a stain on his character, why does the L.C.C. refuse him his licence when they have proof that he was not the man? thereby showing there was malice or something very much like it, and it must still reflect a stain on his character which ought to be made good by compensation or an offer of employment. And what about his wife and children? They must have a hard struggle to make ends meet, and I am glad the public has had one case shown to them of what the present L.C.C. is doing for one of the working classes, not to mention others to my knowledge.

Can nothing be done for Downham? Some of our readers have been good enough to send us moneys for him, and we have his assurance that these have been of the greatest use to him. But, of course, he cannot live on charity, and would not if he could. What he wants is work, but wherever he goes he is barred by these proceedings against him by the L.C.C. Employers have too many applications for work nowadays to trouble themselves with the merits of the question, and so Downham, young, active, intelligent, industrious, of excellent character, with a wife and youngsters to look after, is faced with the workhouse unless someone can give him work. He doesn't care what kind of work it is so long as it is what an honest man may put his hand to.

We have to acknowledge receipt of 5s. from R. K. (Belfast); 5s. 6d. from "Sympathiser" (Blyth); 5s. from M. T. (London); 5s. from W. S. P. (Loughton); 2s. 6d. from Stoke Newington, for Downham, whose case we refer to above, and we have had the pleasure of forwarding these sums to him.

TELEPHONE No 96 GERRARD
ELECTRIC PIANOS
WE HOLD THE LARGEST STOCK OF AUTOMATIC PIANOS IN THE KINGDOM
LOWEST PRICES
BEST TERMS
WHY PAY A BAND & LOSE YOUR MONEY
PAY US HALF THE COST OF A BAND
MONTHLY AND THE INSTRUMENT IS YOURS
IS NOT THIS BUSINESS ???
KEITH, PROWSE & Co LTD,
AUTOMATIC DEPT 38 BERNERS ST LONDON, W.

HUMAN DOCUMENT LXIII.

A HIGH-MINDED WOMAN.

In our issue of October 9th we published an appeal on behalf of an old man of 71, formerly the proprietor of a private school, who has now nothing but his old age pension to live upon, and has two daughters, whose efforts to keep a roof over the heads of their father and themselves were described in the Document. It was a case which we were sure would appeal to many of our readers, and in response we have received postal orders and cheques amounting altogether to the sum of £5 12s. We remitted the first portion of these gifts on the 12th inst., intending to remit the balance upon having acknowledgment of the first remittance. In reply to our communication we have received a letter from one of the daughters, in which she writes:—

> I thank you most sincerely for the kind interest you have taken in affording us temporary relief, but as I have been able to get a little employment, I would much rather return the postal orders and so on to the kind donors, in the hope that we may be able to surmount our present difficulties. The parcels of clothing for the child we shall be very glad of.

Our readers who sent us the postal orders and cheques will, we are sure, agree with us that this letter reflects the highest credit upon the lady who wrote it, but it has occurred to us that she may be a little sanguine as to the future (as we are all apt to be when there has been a spell of bad luck and the clouds seem to brighten a little), and that it well may be that in the course of a few weeks she and those whom she loves may be (despite the present hopes) in a position where the £5 12s. would be of great use. We have therefore written to her to explain what is in our mind on the subject and to say that we propose to delay returning these moneys to the donors until November 30th. If at any time between now and then it is needed by those for whom it was sent it is at their disposal. If not, it will be returned to those who gave it.

We hope that in taking this course we shall meet with the approval of those who responded to our appeal.

We have received 3s. for the writer of Human Document No. LXII., from L. G. F., and this sum we have duly remitted.

With reference to Human Document No. LXV., we have received the following moneys from readers, all of which we have forwarded to Dann:—7s. 6d. from "Suffragettes"; 5s. from F. W. (London); 2s. 6d. from —— (Gosforth); £2 2s. from A. D. C. (S.W.)

THE "A.B.C." AND ITS STAFF.

We have been privileged to read the rules of the Aerated Bread Company, devised for the ordering of the lives of its employees. We have no objection to the sumptuary law which exacts white linen collars and cuffs, if these be really emblems of propriety; but we do not see eye to eye with the regulation:—"Lace, beaded trimming, ornaments in the hair, or jewellery of any kind, except a small silver brooch, not allowed." Why should the small silver brooch be singled out for encouragement? The whole question of ornament is a very large one, and not to be dismissed in a paragraph; but why insist upon silver?

Then we have another enactment:—"All dresses to be fastened in front." Personally, we should have thought that most women who happen to be without maids or husbands or other drudges would prefer to have their buttons within reach. But this is not the opinion of the sex, which, after all, probably knows its own business best.

As advocates of liberty, we fail to see what conceivable right the "A.B.C." has to deprive its attendants of their undoubted privilege to follow an inconvenient fashion. It cannot, surely, be alleged that there is anything fast or furious about the locality of a button. These, however, are trivial matters. We note with alarm that there are "messing arrangements," involving a cost of 1s. 6d. per week for lunch; also that "employees are usually placed at depots not exceeding 2s. in fares weekly." As most of these unfortunate people earn only about 10s. a week, it will be seen that a very small sum remains over for board and lodging and clothes, not to speak of amusements—and to say nothing of the buttons and the brooches!

3 bottles 9/6

4 years old—post free—our risk

6 bots: 18/6 **12 bots: 36/-** (carriage paid your rly. station)

Somerville's

SCOTCH WHISKIES

The **finest that Scotland Produces.**

Our "4 years old" is a pure, sound, wholesome whisky, and splendid value at the price—but—to the critical judge who appreciates really mellow, well-aged whisky, we recommend our

	POST FREE 3 BOTS.	Carriage paid your rly. station. 6 BOTS.	12 BOTS.
6 Years Old	11/-	21/6	42/-
10 Years Old	12/6	24/6	48/-

Fill up the Order Form and post to us with your remittance TO-DAY.

John Somerville & Co., Ltd.,
Distillers,
Craigmillar, Edinburgh.
Established 1826.

POST FREE
Sample half bottles.

4	years old	1/9
6	"	2/-
10	"	2/3

ORDER FORM.

To Messrs. John Somerville and Co., Ltd.,
Distillers, Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

I enclose remittance value..... for which please send me.....bottles of Somerville's ..... years old Scotch Whisky on condition that if it is not the finest Whisky at the price I shall be entitled to have my money refunded. JOHN BULL, 30/10/09.

Name.....

Address .....

SELLING CAREERS.

'THE CIVIL SERVICE AND BUSINESS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.'

From many letters we have received from time to time, it would appear that the gullibility of the average parent is only equalled by his criminal carelessness in choosing a school to educate his children. He is gulled by obviously misleading advertisements, gulled by the expensive prospectuses these places send out, and when he has placed his children, is gulled term after term by glowing reports of their progress. When they leave to take their places in the world he gets a rude awakening, but it is too late to save the careers of his children. Truly, the time has arrived for John Bull to step in on behalf of those of its readers who are parents.

The education wanted nowadays is one that is practical and will fit a boy or girl to take a responsible part in the world's work. The old exploded shibboleths of pedagogy must go, and parents must require that the education they buy for their children shall have a definite money value. It must be an insurance for the future. A good appointment must be the inevitable end and aim of it. In choosing a school or college the parent must insist upon a reputation for such in the past, undeniable success in the present, and guarantee of such in the future. We should then hear less of careers ruined through inefficient training.

We have taken the trouble to investigate the advertisements and prospectuses of some of these institutions, and the claims of most may be dismissed at once. Some depend on a name which the public, in its blindness, takes to mean efficiency; others on high-sounding promises evidently beyond their power to fulfil; some even on successes gained, not by their students, but by paid professionals, and successes obviously of no value as a criterion of their training. The unsuspecting parent is the natural prey of these. One institution training boys and girls for the Civil Service and for business claims more successes than any two others, and makes a very bold claim to public support. We refer to Clark's College, the Civil Service and Business University of London.

Mr. Clark, the founder and principal of Clark's College, is not only a practical business man, but the keenest of teachers. Starting thirty years ago with one student, he has now a large building in Chancery Lane and branches in ten different parts of London, having 5,000 students in training at the present time. He has also a large number of students training by mail in all parts of the world. The claims Mr. Clark makes publicly on behalf of his college are such that at first sight would appear incredible, but after investigation one comes to the inevitable conclusion that it is in very fact the most successful college in the world as it is the largest.

Mr. Clark, whilst not inviting our investigation, allowed us every facility for finding out for ourselves what the college was doing, and we must admit that the result was an eye-opener. To take an example of the college successes in Civil Service examinations. At the last examination for 25 appointments, 24 of these were gained by students of Clark's College, leaving one single vacancy to be competed for by over 700 candidates from other institutions. Similar results —which we proved by reference to official Government lists— are obtained by the College in examination after examination. Mr. Clark claims that a candidate stands but little chance who has not been trained at Clark's College. After investigating his published successful results, we fully endorse his claim. Parents who wish their boys and girls to enter the Civil Service will certainly place them first at Clark's College if they will take the trouble to investigate for themselves.

The other side of the College work—that of training for business appointments—is entirely separate in every respect. This department is controlled by practical business men. The whole essence of business training is that it should end in a good appointment in some business house of repute. If not, it is not successful. We, therefore, first investigated the Employment Bureau of Clark's College, which we found to have placed over 3,000 students during the past year into good berths in banks, insurance offices and business houses of repute, at salaries commencing at from 15s. to £2 weekly. On the books were the names of many of the highest banking, shipping and commercial firms in London, and it is quite obvious that Mr. Clark is quite able to place out boys and girls as fast as they can be prepared.

Students of business training take in the course of their work the examinations in Shorthand, Typewriting, Book-keeping, Languages, etc., held by the Society of Arts, Chamber of Commerce, and National Union of Teachers. The published results of these examining bodies give Clark's College an overwhelming preponderance of successes over those of all other competing institutions. For example, in this year's examinations the College gained 2,903 prizes, medals and certificates, and in addition made practically a clear sweep of the highest honours in the form of medals, money prizes and scholarships.

These successes make the extravagant claims of certain other schools require substantial proof by published official success lists before being accepted as authentic. Surely facts and figures in plenty are available, and it is not too much to ask any other college to substantiate the claims they may make for public support.

The point which at once rises in the mind is, how are these almost incredible successes obtained? It is here that the electric energy and powerful personality of Mr. Clark are felt. Every member of his staff feels this energy and power, and imparts it in his turn to the students. Mr. Clark says "It is the ambition and constant endeavour of all of his staff to get the best work out of each student, to make each student feel at each attendance that progress has been made. They are buying specialised education. We see that they get it. Slackness and irregularity are never permitted; the first indication of any tendency to them is at once checked, and our energies at once concentrated in imbuing that student with the ambition to excel."

The result of this is seen in the students. The Clark's College student is a type in himself. Alert, confident and supremely able, no wonder they are able to secure the places best worth having. The very able teacher often loses sight of the fact that he must consider the temperament of the students. Mr. Clark recognises that his work is something more than really imparting knowledge. He takes the boy or girl after leaving the ordinary school, and the parent may well leave the rest with him. Clark's College now takes over all the responsibility of training the boy and girl, and placing them out into appointments which last a lifetime.

Naturally there is much human interest in the work of Clark's College, and the following story is typical of many:

Not many years ago a poor labourer was sufficiently attracted by an advertisement of Clark's College to scrape and save until he was able to place his boy there. For nine months he kept him at the College at the cost of who knows what privations? But he was well repaid. At the end of that time the boy passed into a well-paid post in the Civil Service, standing first in the United Kingdom in order of merit amongst all candidates.

The boy, who was ambitious, then took a further course of postal tuition for a higher appointment which he shortly gained. His career has been brilliant ever since, and he is now able to keep his family in a higher position than they had ever dreamed of.

We have so often to blame as a result of our investigations, that it is a great pleasure to be able to give honest praise where it is due, and we can conscientiously assure our readers that Clark's College more than merits the praise of John Bull.

Frankly, John Bull is pleased with the vast education work which is done for the public good by Clark's College.

"THE STYLO SUPPLY CO."

£1 A WEEK—BUT YOU MUST BUY A PEN FIRST!

We are beginning to grow tired of saying the same thing over and over again, but we cannot pass over the following from *Reynolds's Newspaper* :—"£1 weekly addressing envelopes (work at home). Particulars addressed envelope. Supply Co., Mortimer Street, London"—oven though we have a tender affection for that outspoken publication, which has often protected the kind of person most likely to be victimised in this way.

One of our correspondents was beguiled so far as to expend a penny stamp on an enquiry. The Stylo Supply Co. (Offices, Mortimer Street, London) replied with a circular promising to pay 9s. 6d. for every thousand addressed envelopes. But they wrote: "In order to protect ourselves from persons who have no intention of working for us—deluging us with unnecessary correspondence and obtaining our specimens, we shall only employ those BUYING A SAMPLE OF OUR PENS."

They enclosed a form containing the words: "Herewith please find enclosed P.O., value 3s. 6d. and 1d. stamp for postage, for a sample of your Gold Nib Fountain Pens."

We confess that we do not see why envelopes should not be satisfactorily addressed with the ordinary nib costing much less than 3s. 6d., but, if the offer were genuine, we should applaud the philanthropy of offering so much more than the market price for the unskilled labour of addressing envelopes, which, we are informed, never exceeds 2s. 6d. or 3s. per thousand.

Our correspondent points out that the address is somewhat vague, and it is suspicious that nothing is said about payment for the carriage of envelopes, though the Stylo Supply Co. is very careful to exact a penny for the carriage of its pen.

The only thing will be for somebody to send 3s. 7d. to the Stylo Supply Co. and take the necessary steps if everything is not so satisfactory as he has been led to expect. Who will put up this large sum of money in a righteous cause?

FIVE HUNDRED PER CENT.

(But not just at present!)

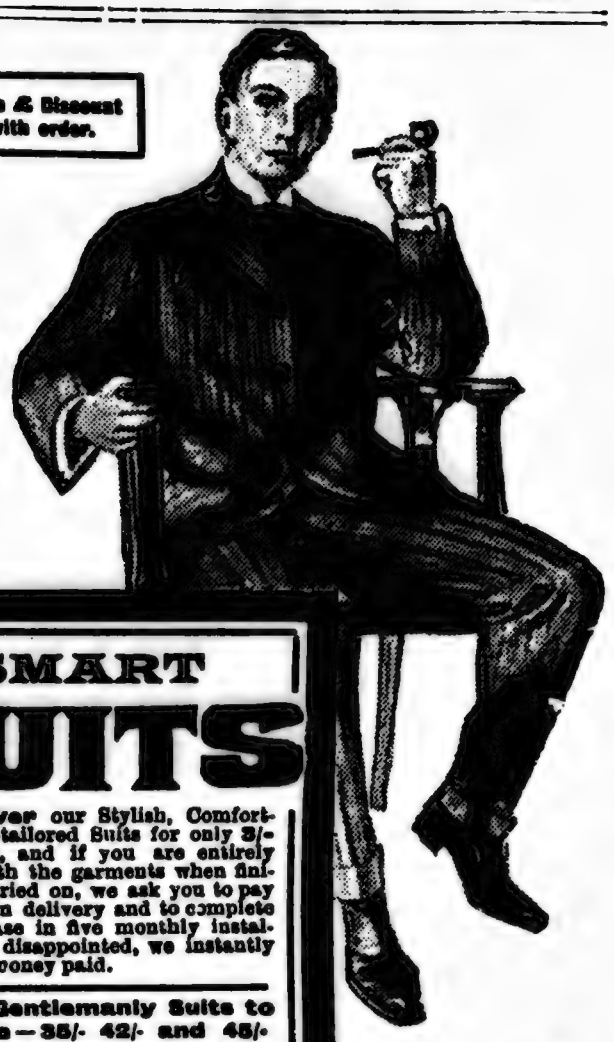
Several correspondents have drawn our attention to the advertisements emanating from 171, Broadway, Hanwell, offering an income of 10s. per week for every investment of £5. We accordingly constituted Jim Crow our provocative agent, and he wrote to the philanthropists in question. He received a reply from E. Edward Leigh and Co., stating that they were issuing two hundred shares of £5 each to extend an estate agency business, which would include the collection of rents. They say that this is so profitable that they will be able to pay 10s. per week on "each and every" £5 invested, but the payments are only to commence three months after the shares are paid up. They do not anticipate having any difficulty in securing rent collections all over London, amounting to £4,000 per week, which, taken at 5 per cent. interest, will carry an income of £200 per week. We suppose that when they say "interest" they mean commission. Messrs. E. Edward Leigh and Co. seem to be very sanguine people, and we shall be glad to hear from our readers if any of them have had any experience of the firm, or of Messrs. Creft and Leigh, estate brokers and patent experts, now incorporated with those philanthropists. Of course, we are alleging nothing against Messrs. E. Edward Leigh and Co., but we confess that an offer of 10 per cent. interest per week sounds too good to be—permanent.

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR.

(Mr. Lloyd George, with Sir Thomas Lipton, recently was seen "shying" at cocoanuts at Dartmouth Fair.)

Said Lipton to George as they strolled through the fair
"To be here incognito is jolly;
Let's visit the shows, at the fat lady stare,
And indulge in some innocent folly."
"Agreed!" cried Lloyd George; "here's a cocoanut shy,
The 'milky ones' standing in tiers—
I'll have a few shots and fancy that I
Am 'pitching' away at the peers!"

2/- in the £ Discount Cash with order.



SMART
SUITS

We Deliver our Stylish, Comfortable, Well-tailored Suits for only 3/- with order, and if you are entirely pleased with the garments when finished and tried on, we ask you to pay 3/- more on delivery and to complete the purchase in five monthly instalments. If disappointed, we instantly return all money paid.

Stylish Gentlemanly Suits to Measure—35/- 42/- and 45/-

Write for Patterns and say whether you prefer light or dark cloths. See for yourself the quality and value of the cloths. You can be well dressed with surprisingly economical outlay by accepting our offer of Easy Terms of Payment, and you do not feel the effort.

Patterns, Self-measurement Form, New Fashion Chart, and Instructions Free. Select the cloth and style and leave the rest to us. We will give you absolute satisfaction or refund every penny paid.

THE OVERCOAT SEASON is now in full swing. We have the right goods at the right prices—25/- and 30/-
Ask for Patterns.

J.G. GRAVES LTD.
SHEFFIELD

Delivered for
3/-
with order

and if you are entirely satisfied with the Suit when you have tried it on, pay 3/- more and complete the purchase in five equal monthly payments. If you are dispppointed, we will immediately refund all money paid.

MOLASSINE
DOG AND PUPPY CAKES
are equally suitable for
ALL KINDS OF DOGS AND PUPPIES,
No Fancy Preparations being necessary.

These foods are composed of the purest ingredients only. Their unique effects are due to the antiseptic properties of the foods of which the cakes are compounded.

They aid digestion, keep dogs' skins and coats in fine condition, eradicate internal worms and parasites, and prevent the dogs smelling.

ABSOLUTELY DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER CAKES.
Sold by Grocers, Corn Merchants, and
THE MOLASSINE CO., Ltd.
Dog and Puppy Cake Works, 113, Tunnel Avenue, GREENWICH, S.E.
In districts where these Cakes are not stocked by Dealers, we pay carriage to consumers on quantities of 28 lbs. and upwards. Send for Samples.

Molassine Meal Gives Horses Stamina.

After Shaving.
ICILMA FLUOR CREAM is the only rational cream to use after shaving, because it is so soothing and comforting that it immediately removes any soreness and irritation which shaving is apt to cause. Used overnight, it makes the morning shave surprisingly easy.
Of all Chemists, 1/-. Send 2d. for sample to (Dept. 5) 14a Rosebery Avenue, LONDON, E.C.
Icilma Fluor Cream.

CANT AND THE POOR LAW.

By Julius West.

It is doubtful whether there exists in any of our national institutions a quantity of humbug and wastefulness in any way approaching that in which the Poor Law is hidden. A few months ago the Poor Law Commission reported, that is to say, an eleven pound volume was thrown at the heads of Members of Parliament and of those members of the general public who thought themselves equal to the strain of reading through about a thousand folio pages of Blue Book. The two reports—Majority and Minority—constitute as complete a denunciation of national hypocrisy as the most ardent John Bullite could desire. It is only to be regretted that life is too short and doubtful to allow of the satisfactory assimilation of the whole thing on anything like a reasonable scale.

It is unfortunate that the spirit of humbug into which the Commissioners enquired for four years should have, to a certain extent, affected most of them. A chapter of the Majority Report dealing with "the Causes of Pauperism" will probably go down to posterity as unsurpassed in its fatuity, even among Government publications. The poor are poor obviously because they haven't much money. That is commonsense. The poor are poor—according to this chapter of the Report—because they drink and gamble (with the money they haven't got, presumably), because they live in common lodging-houses, furnished rooms and shelters (not being able to afford beds at the Ritz, or even at the Strand Palace), because some of of their money comes from "charitable" sources, because some of the women of the poorest classes do not understand housekeeping (on nothing a week), and finally—and this is the gem of the collection—the poor are poor because there exists a Poor Law to relieve poverty.

All of which ought to be referred to the Horse Marines.

The unsophisticated Briton seems to have a vague sort of notion that there really is a "Poor Law" somewhere in the vaults and cellars of the Houses of Parliament. There isn't. There are about four hundred complicated Acts of Parliament—some of which are dead letters, and the rest of which have been put into operation by various administrative orders (not always obeyed) of the Local Government Board. Then there are about two thousand judicial decisions as to what these statutes and orders really mean. Besides all this, Boards of Guardians have fairly wide powers of making their own byelaws—and of evading them. There is an artistic unevenness about these byelaws, particularly about those which deal with outdoor relief, and still more particularly concerning the granting of outdoor relief to widows, and wives living apart from their husbands. The Langport Board of Guardians, by way of encouraging morality refuses outdoor relief to healthy able-bodied widows, whatever be the size of their families! In Plymouth and some other places, widows applying for outdoor relief must only have "small families," and in St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, more than two children disqualify. It seems as if the Guardians thought that a woman who had had the recklessness to present the world with three children was not a fit person to be allowed her liberty, but was best inside the local workhouse. On the other hand, Wakefield, Leeds and other important towns make a particular point of giving relief if there are several children.

It is in Scotland, however, that the hypocrisy of Poor Law administration reaches its limit. Under the Scotch Poor Law a woman about to become a mother may not lawfully receive any assistance so long as she is living with her husband, however urgent be her need. But, if the mother-about-to-be is not living with her husband, has been deserted, or is a prostitute, she can receive assistance at the public expense—in short, a premium is set upon immorality and illegitimacy by the virtuous Scot!

These are just a few examples of the beautiful complexities in which the Poor Law of to-day has lost itself. If ever there was a need for lovers of sincerity and haters of fatuity to put their convictions into law, it is here.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY LIMERICK.

'Tis stated that Carlyon Bellairs,
Disliking these Budget affairs,
No more will abide
On the Radical side:
I wonder if anyone cares?

"Retlaw."

The King of Spain

BESTOWS ROYAL FAVOUR UPON

PHOSFERINE

THE GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

The world-renowned restorative medicine has already for many years been supplied by

ROYAL COMMANDS

To the Royal Family	H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Serge of Russia
H.I.M. the Empress of Russia	H.R.H. the Grand Duchess of Hesse
H.M. the King of Greece	H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Xenia of Russia
H.M. the Queen of Roumania	H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Olga of Russia
H.I.M. the Dowager Empress of Russia	H.R.H. the Princess Nicholas of Greece
H.R.H. the Crown Princess of Roumania	
The Imperial Family of China	

And the Principal Royalty and Aristocracy throughout the World.

A further mark of Royal Appreciation has again distinguished Phosferine by the bestowal of a

Royal Warrant to Supply Phosferine

TO

His Majesty The King of Spain

By the Royal Command I give you the information that His Majesty the King, our Lord whom may God preserve, has gratefully conferred upon you the honour of Providers to the Royal House.

Palace, Madrid, September 3, 1909.

Sres, Ashton & Parsons, Ltd.

PHOSFERINE

THE GREATEST OF ALL TONICS.

A PROVEN REMEDY FOR

Neuralgia	Premature Decay	Anæmia
Rheumatism	Maternity Weakness	Malaria
Brain-fag	Nervous Headaches	Sciatica
Indigestion	Sleeplessness	Nervousness

and all disorders consequent upon a reduced state of the nervous system.

Bottles, 1/1½, 2/9, and 4/6. Sold by all Chemists, Stores, &c.

The 2/9 size contains nearly four times the 1/1½ size.

OUR SPECIAL POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

(Specially Mis-reported for "John Bull.")
By Richard Morton.

A CASE THAT MIGHT HAVE ENDED DIFFERENTLY—PRISONER'S STRANGE NEGLECT.

Yesterday at the West-End Police Court there was a remarkable instance of the fact that a defendant's case, if not properly stage-managed, is liable to have a distressing result, whereas the exercise of a little smart diplomacy and the display of emotions and other trimmings common to cases of the kind might easily procure a more satisfactory conclusion.

The charge under notice was brought before Mr. Pyke, and the prisoner, Patience Grizel, was placed in the dock for having by false pretences obtained food, to wit, one steak and several potatoes, with bread, of the total value of one shilling, from Adolphus Cookham, proprietor of Cookham's Restaurant, in Oxford Street.

The prisoner, a pale-faced girl of about twenty, neatly dressed in sober black, stood quite still when the charge was read over, and appeared not to shed a tear. At any rate, she made no play with a lace-edged handkerchief, as she should have done, and it was noticed that she did not even wear a large picture hat with ostrich plumes. Neither had she any furs. This neglect of the proprieties created a bad impression at the outset.

Maud Sprightly, a waitress, said the prisoner was served by her with the steak and potatoes, and that she duly consumed the same, regardless of consequences. Business was brisk and the shop very full, and the attention of witness was momentarily withdrawn from the prisoner, who she suddenly perceived was walking out of the shop, past the cash-desk, without offering to pay for her repast. Witness ran after her, caught her on the step, and informed the proprietor, who gave her into custody. Witness thought there was something suspicious about the prisoner from the first; she was dressed so quiet and looked so plain.

By the Magistrate: Prisoner did say she was sorry, and she had the money in her hand ready to pay. She said, "I have never done such a thing before."

The magistrate asked the prisoner if she had any questions to put to witness, and she replied in a low voice, "No, it is quite true." It was at once evident that she was making a great mistake in having no eloquent advocate to browbeat the witness and to check her own simplicity in making such an open confession.

Mr. Cookham said he gave the prisoner into custody. Similar cases had occurred before, but this was the only time he had known the prisoner do such a thing.

Evidence on behalf of the prisoner was volunteered by Mr. Meanwell, an old family friend, who said the girl was a clerk at a salary of one pound a week. She was in poor health, and had to assist to maintain her mother. He could not understand her doing such a thing except in a moment of temporary mental aberration.

Two other witnesses gave the girl a good character, and the minister of the church she attended said he was quite sure she would never offend again.

It was, however, noteworthy that none of her witnesses were fashionably attired, nor was there a single physician of high standing called to swear that her act was the natural consequence of her neurotic temperament, or the effect of a headache, or because of her corns. The presence in court of a few society people and a big doctor from Harley Street with a fat cheque in his pocket might have put an entirely different complexion on the case.

The Magistrate: You have heard the evidence and what your friends have said on your behalf. What have you to say for yourself? Have you any explanation to offer?

Prisoner, nervously: I am very sorry, sir. I had the shilling in my hand, and something prompted me to try and save it. We are very poor.

The Magistrate: Poverty is no excuse for crime. It is my duty to send you to prison. Three months.

The prisoner looked as if she doubted her hearing. Then, with a sharp cry of agony, she reeled and fell to the floor in a dead faint. It was very realistic and touching, but it was too late. She ought to have opened the proceedings with an effect like that.

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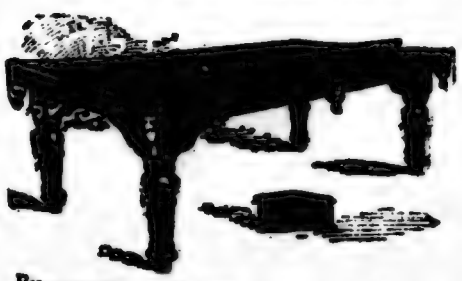

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THE JOHN BULL LEAGUE MEETING.

TWO WORD PICTURES OF THE GREAT GATHERING.

:o:

As an impartial person, who is not even a member of the John Bull League, I have been asked to give my impressions of the strange gathering which dignified the Albert Hall last week.

As the Editor of this journal and the President of the League is renowned for his tolerant attitude towards life and liver, he may possibly consent to print my comments.

He made one huge mistake, but it was so huge that it will probably be accepted as a stroke of genius. He attempted to reconcile the irreconcilable. He was at once a Tariff Reformer and a Free Trader, a champion of religion, a castigator of musty missionaries and Sabbatarian heretics.

His evident intention was to be kind and condescending towards the credulous possessors of creeds. He was eloquent and even pathetic in his description of the human craving for comforters in distress. But right at the back of his mind I seemed to scent an idea that the strong brave man is his own comforter and does not require to have his hand sympathetically held in time of trouble.

It is, perhaps, not immodest to proclaim myself a good critic, for critics are notoriously failures. So, perhaps, I may set down my candid opinion of the President of the John Bull League as an orator. I have heard most of the great speakers of the age—Disraeli, Gladstone, Bright, A. M. Sullivan, Lord Randolph Churchill, and his more brilliant son. But I am free to confess that Mr. Bottomley will always occupy a very prominent position as an orator in the galleries of my memory. Fluency is nothing. He was much more than fluent. Commonsense raises another issue. As a whole, his speech was convincing.

Undoubtedly, he had a triumph. His language was well-chosen without being pedantic. His voice was smooth and travelled to every corner of the vast hall without any suggestion of effort. As I watched the serried serious masses hanging upon his words, applauding his sentiments, I could not help recalling the last occasion when I saw him appear in public. He was then almost pleading for his life in a dingy court-house at the Guildhall in the presence of a few unattractive persons. Even then he was eloquent, charming, unperturbed. But now there was a note of triumph in his voice; he was no longer on his defence; he was starting a campaign of active warfare against parties and prejudices and all the vast array whereby stupidity is bolstered up. From the outset he secured his audience with a strange magnetic grip.

Yet I am sure that the predominant sentiment when he began to speak was one of curiosity. Enthusiasm was withheld long enough to arouse anxiety. There was a non-committal attitude, a suspension of judgment, but great attention during at least ten minutes. Then the clouds were dispelled, a feeling of friendliness made itself felt like rays of sunshine on a doubtful day. It must have been a very difficult audience to impress and control. I confess I have never seen such an audience. It was composed of every party and creed and shade of opinion imaginable. The least lapse from supreme tact might have provoked an uproar. As it was, there was only one moment when the electric atmosphere became heavily charged. This was due to a casual reference to Mr. Lloyd George, who evidently had many zealous adherents and many bitter opponents in this crowd. It was certainly very clever to avoid treading on any corns in this heterogeneous meeting, and it was very courageous of the speaker to say exactly what he thought on all the great topics of the hour. There were moments when I thought that this courage threatened to degenerate into recklessness; but was justified in his temerity.

It was an unique meeting, a new departure in the public life of this country, the revelation of a surprising personality. But I was scarcely less interested and impressed by the psychology of this remarkable audience. I listened to the *sotto voce* comments. I watched the vigilant, thoughtful faces. Here were types of that strange unknown entity, the man in the street. We hear a great deal about the man in the street, but we rarely meet him face to face. Here we came into contact with the backbone of the country, the mysterious forces which sway elections in disregard of party prejudices, the men and women who exalt commonsense above loyalty and tradition. Some of them were sometimes moved to anger, sometimes to derision, but always to admiration. Interruptions and even hubbub might easily have been engineered at the outset before a favourable verdict had been secured. But every sentence assured the success of the John Bull League, enshrining it in the hearts and minds of this vast concourse until the sober enthusiasm gathered such force that interrupters would have had a very short shrift. It may have been that Mr. Bottomley sometimes protested a little too much in his endeavour to reconcile conflicting trains of thought. He was all things to all men, even to women. But the result justified the contortion. No one could ever be angry with Mr. Horatio Bottomley, even when he tries to prove that we can tax foreigners and, at the same time, shout for the memory of Cobden. But to blow hot and cold, to keep the porridge all the time simmering at the right temperature, is a task which would baffle many men of genius. However, the first step is proverbially the most expensive one, and, now that this has been taken successfully, there need be no hesitation about the future.

Herbert Vivian.

On the evening of Trafalgar Day, we who were present at the inaugural meeting of the John Bull League at the Albert Hall, consciously or unconsciously were assisting to make history. We were present at the official birth of, perhaps, the most remarkable association that civilization has yet produced—an association of men and women who, having realized the dangerous extent to which cant humbug, and hypocrisy enter into modern social, political, and religious life, have leagued themselves together to fight with the irresistible weapon of Commonsense those three contemptible enemies of liberty and progress.

As I surveyed the impressive blur of innumerable faces, rising in serried ranks, and all turned eagerly towards the spot where the Brain of the League was delivering his message, I felt that henceforth we must revise our estimate of the British character. We knew that enthusiasm—sometimes frantic enthusiasm—could be aroused in the British breast by the preaching of dogmatic religion or party politics—subjects which engender more heat than any others under the sun; but who would have conceived that a combined social, political, and religious creed with one article of faith, Commonsense, could have excited the intense fervour that was witnessed at the Albert Hall? Evidently the British people are growing up. Tired of the incompetence of the professional party politician, sick o the smug complacency and pharasaical attitude of the various religious denominations, angered by the travesties of justice, which too often make the administration of the law a mockery and a crime, a large and intelligent section of the community has resolved that these things shall cease.

The most despairing pessimist, the most convinced believer in our nation's decadence, must have left the Albert Hall with an unfamiliar sensation surging in his mind. Hope—and more than hope. Absolute assurance of the soundness of the British heart, and consequent confidence in the future of the British race, must have swept every other thought and feeling aside; and he must have stepped out from that mighty meeting with a new sense of dignity, a truer conception of what is patriotism, and a loftier ideal.

The train of Commonsense at last is fired. The spark was ignited on the anniversary of Nelson's glorious death—or, rather, of his magnificent entry into immortality. From the Albert Hall the fuses will run and radiate throughout these islands, throughout the Empire, and will lead up to such an explosion of public indignation against the vilest trio of evils that ever have afflicted humanity—Cant, Humbug, and Hypocrisy—that the civilized world will stand amazed, and, pointing, will say that the British people, the British Empire, and all that that implies, have found salvation, not through the medium of wornout creeds, political nostrums, or socialistic theorizing, but by way of the inherent commonsense of the British character.

Walter Moore.

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WINGED WORDS.

By Irene Miller.

The leaders of each political party are racking their brains to devise and set a-foot a bright, catchy battle-cry for the oncoming General Election? Really, it is no unimportant detail. Backers of any cause ought to be encouraged to shout long and loud—it relieves the feelings of the enthusiast, bucks up the half-hearted, keeps everything alert and lively. But what is to be shouted in addition to the universal "Hurrah"? A slogan ought to be crisp, taking, and descriptive—*multum in parvo* in fact. Some of bye-gone fame have been positive little works of genius. It is hard to know whether "Three Acres and a Cow" or "Free Trade and the Big Loaf" sounds most alluring. Both "Home Rule for Ireland" and "The Integrity of the Empire" must make ardent hearts go pit-a-pat, while "A Free Breakfast Table" appeals directly to everyone.

It may be feeble to dish up old war-cries, yet it is some seventy years since Manchester and Birmingham seemed ready to march on London to the shout, "The Bill, the whole Bill and nothing but the Bill!" Perhaps Lloyd George might deem that well suited to the present emergency.

I well remember the serious discussion at the first tiny gathering of Suffragists who meant to become militant, concerning an explanatory and inspiring battle-cry. "Votes for Women" was hailed as quite an inspiration.

How some coined words catch on and become part of the language! There was a time when those who shouted "Votes for Women," seemed destined to be described in history books and police reports as "Voterettes." Then some newspaper genius thought of "Suffragette"—which will surely be found in future dictionaries—and "Voterette" was wiped out instantly. Mr. Liberty, of artistic furniture fame, was humorously lamenting at a public dinner recently, that he had degenerated into a mere adjective; Liberty velveteen, a Liberty carpet, and so on. But in France he has become a noun; "Madame A. wore a Liberty in olive-green, made with a tunic," and the like descriptions are seen in French fashion papers; and so the name shares the fate of that of our mighty warriors, Wellington—who is boots—and of that wise statesman, Lord Brougham—who is a carriage.

Wise-sounding phrases are always being shown-up as terrible liars. Yet they somehow retain a great power. Proverbs, which have been neatly defined as "The wisdom of many and the wit of one," are terribly artful! They have all had the foresight to provide themselves with a sort of under-study not similar to themselves, but contrariwise. Thus does one prove hopelessly wrong in any given case, up pops its comrade that asserts exactly the contrary, and announces it, adding: "But I'm a proverb, too." Thus, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder," plays into the hands of "Out of sight, out of mind." So "Homekeeping youths have homely wits," has for the other side of the shield a warning about "Rolling stones gathering no moss." Oh, proverbs are a tricky lot!

But the modern Council school youth is becoming sharper than the patriarchs of old. The copy-book may give solemn warning that "Even the worm will turn if trodden upon." The man-of-the-world-child winks one eye and remarks, dryly, "It won't if you tread hard enough." Another youth set to compose an essay on his teacher's words concerning the manifold advantages to health, wealth, and wisdom of early rising, fearlessly wrote: "My Dad has to get up early, and be healthy, too, or he would get the sack; but it is them who lays in bed and catches a ten o'clock train who is both the wisest and the best off."

People who try to guide their lives by the aid of proverbs are sometimes led into very silly antics. "The saws of the wise lead not always to wisdom." (A proverb of my own invention. Excellent, I'm sure!) We know there are quite a number to prove the value of "utilising every moment." Therefore, an individual named Arnauld (he was famous for something or other) replied, when advised to take a little rest, "Rest! Why, there's Eternity to rest in!" A most dogmatic assumption of knowledge he could not really possess. Anyhow, driven by the notion of the prolonged holiday that is coming, we hear Dr. Erasmus Darwin, who used to compose poems—very bad ones, too—while driving from one patient to another. Poor Kirke White, the poet, learnt Greek while walking to and from his work in a solicitor's office, and died over-spent and consumptive at 22. Another model man mastered a foreign language while shaving. I'm sure he must have hacked his chin unmercifully. If he had been my husband I should have hung over his shaving-mirror a contrary motto:—

"One thing at a time, and that done well,
Is a very good rule as all can tell."

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IMAGINARY INTERVIEWS.

By Walter Moore.

XXII.—MR. VICTOR GRAYSON.

Curious to meet a real live Socialist of the blood-and-thunder type, I visited the House of Commons and inquired for the Member for Colne Valley. Spying his fair young face in the distance, I hurried up to him and grasped his hand with considerable warmth.

"Mr. Grayson," I cried, "I congratulate you. You are a fortunate young man."

"Thanks," returned Victor. "Yes, I suppose I may consider myself fortunate. Fortunate, inasmuch as I am privileged to lead the forces of Socialism, which are growing stronger in England day by day."

"You don't quite take me," I said; "I was not looking at matters from that point of view. I was thinking how fortunate it is for you that we English are a phlegmatic people. At the same time, you are doing the nation a service which you probably are not conscious of. You are showing the British people and the world at large that we retain a fair measure of the stolidity which made us great, and which has saved us in the past, which saves us in the present, and which will save us in the future from such horrible convulsions as the French Revolution. You are giving the British people a feeling of security. They observe that, notwithstanding your inflammatory harangues, your 'broken bottle speeches,' and various other incendiary efforts, the nation maintains its composure."

"But my mission is to rouse the people from their deadly composure, their fatal acquiescence," cried Mr. Grayson. "My purpose in life is to awaken the masses from the degrading apathy which enslaves their bodies and souls."

"I know that is your ostensible mission," I responded; "but can not you see that your violent methods, your foam-flecked fury, have a contrary effect to that which you desire? Do not you see that the British people instinctively recoil from revolutionary suggestions? Can you shut your eyes to the fact that violence is abhorrent to our national genius? Witness the militant suffrage movement. Who will deny that the hooligan suffragette has done more to strengthen opposition to the female franchise than to bring about the electoral reform for which she clamours and for which there is much to be said?"

"But society as at present constituted is rotten at the core, and the time for kid-gloved agitation is past," declared Mr. Grayson.

"You cannot read European history intelligently and maintain such an opinion," I protested. "You must admit that the British people enjoy a greater measure of liberty and prosperity—speaking broadly—than any other nation; and you cannot deny that their liberty and prosperity have been largely the fruit of peaceful agitation.

"You seem to think that there's nothing wrong with England," sneered Mr. Grayson.

"Far from it," I returned. "I am perfectly conscious of the many serious, nay, scandalous, defects in our social system. But I am also convinced that violence begets violence. If you are so keen on putting the world to rights—and you are not the first to have that laudable ambition, nor, I hope, will you be the last—there is an instrument at your hand which will prove more effectual than all your Trafalgar Square eloquence, more powerful than all your frantic mouthings in the streets, all your allusions to blood."

"What instrument's that?" demanded Mr. Grayson.

"The John Bull League, my young friend. A League which will labour to turn the fierce light of public opinion on the wrong-doings of the rich and the wrongs of the poor. A League, before which, cant and humbug and hypocrisy in social, political and religious life will slink away ashamed. A League which will work to promote the manliness of men, the womanliness of women, and the happy childlikeness of children. There is no need to tear the heads of kings from their shoulders. There is no necessity to throw broken bottles at the innocent emissaries of the law. A resolute body of commonsensed men and women, animated by charity of thought as well as deed, and determined that justice shall be tempered with mercy, in these days will effect more in the direction of social reform than all the Socialist incendiaries in the world. Join the League!"

"I will consider the suggestion," replied Mr. Grayson, turning thoughtfully away.

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JOHN BULL'S WOMENFOLK.

BY MRS. BULL.

A FEMININE TRIUMPH.

I suppose it isn't quite fair to crow over men in a man's paper, but it is rather difficult not to when we find our sex doing a thing men have done for years, ever so much better than they do. It is such a rare occurrence that I must mention it. *Voilà!* The thing is making speeches. Certain leading Suffragists have already shown a little of this power, but at the Conference of Women Workers, at Southsea, this week, which includes, as most people know, all kinds of women doing public work, they went further, and laid down a few rules for their speakers which were simple and excellent, and which produced the very best of results. Uncompromisingly, these ladies were told to hold their chins up, throw out their voices to imaginary people at the back of the hall, speak slowly and distinctly, and lift their veils if they wore them. The consequence was they were all pronounced by the press to be remarkably good speakers. It was a mere matter of being heard, plus having something to say. Yet how few of our men public speakers trouble to acquire either of these rather necessary qualities! The clergy of the Church of England are rarely coached in either, and many well-known legislators are equally indifferent; while to hear the average after-dinner speeches at a City company's banquet would make angels weep, if they ever went there. The women workers might invent a little card of "Don'ts" for men of this sort, and be at the same time extending their own public usefulness, say, as follows:—1. Don't give way to the desire to "er." 2. Don't try to be funny—you will only become so if you try to be serious. 3. Don't drop into a phrase because you have heard it before; invent new phrases likely to be heard again. 4. Don't reflect, upon rising, "I am Jones making a speech"; think "Here is an unfortunate crowd obliged to listen to Jones." (This will work wonders.) 5. Don't look ingratiating. 6. Don't clutch at coat lapels. 7. Don't blink ruminatively at the table centre. 8. And *do* have something to say.

SKIRT DRAPERIES.

The terrors of the draped dress are looming nearer and nearer, and it behoves all wise women to make at least this stand against them—to refuse to have them made of any but thin materials. A "Greek effect" in heavy cloth is *not* a Greek effect: it is much more like a person wrapped in the tablecloth after getting on fire. The beautiful ruchings and swathings round the figure of some of the newest dresses are perfect in fine soft silks, chiffons, or gauzes, but what safeguard have we that the blind fashion enthusiast will not adopt them in tweeds? They had something of that sort to put up with in the eighties. But we have grown more discriminating since the eighties; also, as a nation, we are better developed, and need not loop ourselves about with heavy draperies to look as imposing as we want to. Also, above all, we are so much more energetic that I doubt whether the old heavily draped skirts, with their inseparable under-skirts, could ever really envelop us to the same extent again. Meanwhile, let us meet the dressmaker's newest threats with the watchword, "Discrimination."

HERALDING ONE'S CHIFFONS.

There is a new custom creeping into the fashionable reports of weddings or big social functions that seems to strike a note of curious vulgarity, namely, that of announcing beforehand what the principal person at the festivity will wear. Of course in the case of brides this is to some extent excusable, but when it comes to the announcement that the veil will be of old lace, and belonging to the bride's mother, that the famous pearl pendant of her sister will hang round her neck, and that her necklace will be the historic one belonging to her grandmother, the Countess of So-and-So, it becomes rather comic. We all know that every bride ought to wear

"Something old,
Something new,
Something borrowed,
And something blue,"

for luck, but such a one runs the risk of breaking the charm by omitting the second clause altogether! We are used to hearing of certain great ladies appearing on opera first nights or Royal nights in their "famous" diamonds or sapphires, but at least the account was of a past event, not an announcement of something yet to look forward to. After being told that Lady So-and-So will appear at Mrs. This or That's forthcoming political reception wearing her famous rubies, little remains for candour, except we be told that Mrs. This or That will wear Lady So-and-So's famous rubies herself!

BORROWED PLUMAGE.

But as each class imitates the one higher on a lesser scale, shall we not eventually have accounts of affairs in remote country towns with the following inserted:—"Miss H. came in the well-known red toque of her married sister, and wore those two rich hair-brooches that Auntie is so fond of lending to her beloved family." Or "The bride's mother wore the old beaded dolman that has run in the family since the sixties, and a heavily bugled bonnet lent by her mother-in-law." One may argue that old lace, embroidery and jewels may be thus alluded to, but not clothing, but the principle is the same, for all that. And, after all, Auntie's hair-brooches are jewellery—in her eyes—and the bugled bonnet is "heir-loom embroidery." It is only a question of degree.

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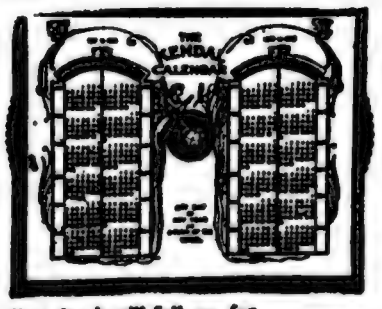

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JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

The Five Per Cent. Bank Rate—A Warning to the Manipulators of the Wall Street Gamble—A Question of Gold Movements.

It was to be expected that the advance in the Bank Rate to 5 per cent. so closely following the rise to 4 per cent. would cause realisations in the Stock Markets, although it was primarily intended to stop any further borrowing from our London Banks by the reckless gamblers in Wall Street and to protect the Bank of England's reserves. As far as can be judged from the movements of the Continental and New York Exchanges which have been in favour of this country this object will be attained. The Bank will secure the weekly consignments of Bar gold from the Cape, which now reach some £2,600,000 per month, and the Bank of France has agreed to allow gold to be withdrawn for Egypt and Turkey. Brazil will require more gold, but may delay further withdrawals, while Russia will also probably defer further imports of the precious metal until the new year, as it never has been her policy to disturb the Western money markets needlessly. In fact on Monday the Bank of England secured the £700,000 Bar gold from the Cape. Thus there is a fair prospect of the 5 per cent. Bank Rate sufficing for the present. But the effect upon the Yankee Market is likely to be more permanent. It is estimated that New York had borrowed some five hundred million dollars in Europe, chiefly in London, wherewith to carry out the huge gamble in American Rails, Steels and Copper. This money will have to be repaid, and as without it the high prices of these various stocks cannot be maintained, a heavy fall is in progress, which will probably gain in momentum as prices get lower. Already Wall Street has had to drop prices during the week some 5 to 10 dols., Union Pacifics to 203⅜, Steels Common to 90, Southern Pacifics to 130, which compares with the highest prices touched of 226, 96 and 137 respectively, but heavier declines will doubtless be forced, as the returned railroad scrip reaches Wall Street and the loans have to be repaid. Several steamers are due to arrive there with large blocks of these documents, and the result will probably be gold shipments from New York to London. When I wrote my first article in John Bull, on October 2nd, I pointed out that the crux of the American market position lay in the monetary situation which was becoming increasingly strained, and that it was merely a question of time how long the Wall Street bull pools would be able to carry their load. I trust that my readers followed my urgent and oft-repeated advice to give the Yankee market a wide berth. I do not suppose that we shall see anything like the 1907-8 financial collapse in the States, but it was high time, in the best interests of our own bankers and financiers, that the Bank of England put the brake on.

Realisations on dear money cause a general set-back in Other Markets—The Shylocks of the Stock Exchange at Work.

Unfortunately the Yankee market is not the only section which is suffering from the advance in the Bank Rate, combined as it is with the involved state of Home politics and Government finance. That Consols should take another dip is not surprising, the price being only 82½, with other gilt-edged securities also from ¼ to ½ lower. Colonial Government stocks, on the other hand, have been well supported, and practically have not been touched by the slump which has developed in other sections, while Foreign Government stocks have only shed fractions, apart from a set-back in some Argentine and Brazilian issues of from ½ to 1. Japanese are but slightly easier, and remain an attractive investment in view of the excellent position of that country's finances. Peru Prefs are comparatively firm at 36⅞, but Costa Rica have fallen from 2 to 3 points on the opposition to the settlement of the Debt on the part of Congress, which I mentioned the other day. On the other hand, heavy declines are marked where speculative accounts were open—not that the "Bull" positions were excessive, but they were in many instances, to use a Stock Exchange expression, "stale," that is to say of old standing, and therefore more vulnerable. To this category belong Mexicans Rails, but as the chief adverse point disclosed at last week's meeting of shareholders was the temporary reduction in oil fuel, these stocks, with satisfactory traffic increases, should rally after the settlement. Canadian Pacifics have given way with American Rails, but as the new issue is now made to the stockholders at 125, which provides a bonus of 10 dols. per share, and traffic returns continue on a splendid scale, this is merely a temporary movement. Less promising is the position of Grand Trunks. I do not refer to the opposition at last week's meeting to the pension of £1,500 a year to be voted to the retiring president, Sir C. Rivers Wilson, although one can sympathise with the Grand Trunk Ordinary shareholders, who have never seen a dividend, and therefore do not feel generously inclined. But the great delay in the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific is a serious matter, and the stockholders heard with dismay that, owing to scarcity of labour, the extension to Prince Rupert will not be completed until the end of 1911. Hence a general decline. Home Rails are again ½ to 2 points lower, but some of these, notably Midland Deferred, with a probable dividend of 3½ to 3¾ per cent. at 54½, are getting attractive, but who knows how soon labour trouble or legislative interference may strike them another blow? Finally, I come to the South African market, and it is here that I have to find fault with the moneylenders on the Stock Exchange, who are proving veritable Shylocks. Facilities are suddenly curtailed, sales are forced and heavy losses caused, so that the lenders may get big contangoes and play in the hands of the professional operators who have become heavy "Bears." And all this although there is no excessive speculative account, while the position on the Rand and in Rhodesia was never better. The great South African houses, under the circumstances, have no option but to drop prices and pick up all the shares so thrown overboard, and when the weak speculators are cleared out, quotations will rise again.

The South African Set Back—The Speculator's Misfortune is the Investor's Opportunity—Copper and other Mines.

Prices had been sagging for some time in the Kaffir Circus in the absence of a fresh buying movement, and on the advance in the Bank Rate prices were put down sharply by the jobbers, so as not to be landed with shares, while the speculative holders were frightened out. But there is no reason for the decline in the position on the Rand, which is better than ever, and intrinsic merit tells in the end. The speculator's discomfiture, however, is the investor's opportunity, and anyone who can afford to lock up and pay for such shares as *Randfontein Central*, *Randfontein South*, *West Rand Consols*, *Cinderella Deep*, *Bantjes Cons.*, *City Deep*, or *Simmer Deep*, on the reaction, will find them grow into money. Similarly, the dividend-payers are good to buy, but they have not declined to the same extent. *Rand Mines*, however, are down at 8¼, *Goldfields* at 6⅛, and *Crown Mines* at 8⅛, but they won't stop long at these prices. By the way, it is to be hoped that the agitation for the absorption by the *Goldfields* of the *South African Gold Trust* will now be stopped. The directors' refusal ought to be accepted, for the shareholders cannot afford to lose such eminently capable and enterprising men from the management.

The recent activity in Rhodesians has, no doubt, increased the speculative account in *Chartered* and *Tanks*, and these have been knocked down to 1¾ and 5⅛ respectively, the smaller shares following suit, but such shares as *Amalgamated Properties of Rhodesia*, now quoted 7s. 6d., are bound to rally again, and so will *Rhodesia Bankets*, which are quoted 2½. The accounts just issued are most satisfactory. Jungles have reacted with Rhodesians, and will no doubt rally with them. *Myall's* and *Peak Hill Gold* shares are steady, changing hands at 3s. That was rather an unfortunate telegraphic error in the *Great Bonanza* cable—the value of the ore being given at £9 instead of $9 per ton, as now corrected. Copper and Copper Mines have turned very flat in sympathy with American Rails, being manipulated by the same groups. Still there are some cheap shares to be bought, such as Whimwell at 1 1-16, one of the cheapest dividend-paying Copper shares, which are talked up to 1½.

The Oceana Consolidated and its Assets.

It cannot be said that the directors' report of the *Oceana Consolidated Company* sees the light of day at a happy moment, as it makes its appearance in the midst of a severe slump in South African shares, and instead of putting up the price, it has been unable to prevent a fall from 16s. 9d. to 15s. It was, of course, a foregone conclusion that the accounts would make a good showing, as the capital had been cut down by one-half and many of the shares in other undertakings were taken over at low prices into the reorganised company. Profits realised by sales of shares, dividends, etc., were £42,951, which are reduced by office expenses, directors' fees in London, Paris and Africa, to a nett profit balance of £25,783. I should have expected more detail as to the source of profits and of the very considerable expenditure; but let this pass. I am voicing, on the other

hand, the view of many shareholders in complaining that in the schedule of quoted securities only "the amount invested as appearing in the books" is given, and not the number of shares held. There can be no possible objection to giving this rather interesting information, which would enable the shareholders to get a clearer view of the correct value of the assets. The amount of all the quoted securities is stated, at June 30 £492,028, to have shown an appreciation above the book value of no less than £160,679, and "has materially increased since that date," so that "in the absence of exceptional events it is anticipated that the payment at the end of December of an interim dividend for the current year will be justified." In the absence of any further information, I have drawn up the following statement of the major part of the quoted securities, with the prices on June 30 last, the date of the balance-sheet, and present price :—

QUOTED SECURITIES.	AMOUNT INVESTED AS IN BOOKS. £	PRICE JUNE 30.	PRESENT PRICE.
Anglo-Egyptian Explor.	191,392	2 9-16	3 3-16
Abosso G. M.	50,774	2 1-16	2 3-16
Welgedacht Explor.	96,289	4½	3 7-16
Comp. du Katanga	73,478	—	—
Mozambique	32,927	16s. 6d.	17s. 0d.
New Egyptian	31,411	9s. 0d.	14s. 6d.
Ashanti Goldfields	614	2 1-16	2⅛
Balkis, Limited	757	—	—
Beira Railway	1,875	—	11-16
City Deep	1,468	4½	4 7-16
Golden Links	2,136	3s. 9d.	3s. 0d.
Great Cent. Rly. 3½% 2nd Deb.	2,196	91	90
Johannes. Cons. Invest.	1,000	1 25-32	1 25-32
Klerksdorp Prop.	200	5s. 6d.	5s. 0d.
Lydenburg Estates	700	7s. 6d.	9s. 0d.
Marconi Telegraph	778	⅝	11-16
New Era Cons.	1,009	—	11-16
North Charterland	881	—	—

The showing would have been more favourable if the sudden slump in South African Mines had not intervened, but there are a good many advances left, although *Welgedacht* and *Ashanti Goldfields* show rather heavy losses. *Katanga* shares are not quoted here. Perhaps the chairman will, at Thursday's meeting, supply the number of shares of the principal holdings or their book value? What the unquoted securities, stated at £52,720, may really be worth remains to be seen. The 1,038,000 acres of land in the Transvaal, including mineral rights, are extremely moderately valued at £129,875, but that is, after all, a waiting game. The new directors have inherited from their predecessors many assets priced very low, and will therefore have to show a far better result than that produced in these accounts. But with fairly good management they ought to succeed in this, provided the present slump does not assume unreasonable proportions.

OLIVER AND PARTNERS' CIRCULAR.

I call attention to Oliver and Partners' circular, and fully endorse their advice to their clients, and to the public, not to allow themselves to be frightened out of their stocks by a temporary scare. Oliver and Partners' advice, gathered as it is from intimate knowledge of the stock markets, may at least be relied upon as honest, inasmuch as every share bought and sold passes through the Stock Exchange. The interests of their clients are, therefore, also their interests.

HIGH-CLASS INDUSTRIAL DEBENTURES.

Despite the strong movement amongst capitalists in favour of investment in Foreign Government, Railway, Corporation, etc., stocks, so as to be more or less independent from the troubled waters of home politics, there are some investors who cannot make up their mind to what they call so un-British a course, and I have again received to-day several requests for a small selection of thoroughly high-class and well-secured home debentures yielding about 4 per cent. In response to this request, I have drawn up the following little table :—

NAME.	INTEREST PER CENT.	REDEEMABLE.	BUYING PRICE.	YIELD PER CENT. PER ANN. £ s. d
City of London Real Prop. Deb.	3½	1922	92	4 1 9
Dalgety Irred. Deb.	4½	—	112	4 0 6
Savoy Hotel 1st Perp. Deb.	4	—	99	4 0 9
Charing Cross Elect. Deb.	4	bef. Aug. 1931 at 110	99	4 0 9
Alliance Invest. Trust. Deb.	4	1910 at 105	101	3 19 3
Vickers and Maxim 2nd Deb.	4½	Ann. dr. at 105	107	4 4 0

The above are prosperous commercial or industrial undertakings of high standing, the debentures of which are deservedly in favour, and by spreading an investment over all or some of these almost complete safety is to be secured. In any case there is less danger of making a loss in capital value than in gilt-edged Home Government stocks, especially Consols, into the sinking fund of which the Chancellor of the Exchequer proposes to make yet a further inroad.

THE COURSE OF THE RUBBER MARKET—BRAZILIAN RUBBER THE DECISIVE FACTOR—RUBBER EXPLORATION—HENRIQUEZ AND OTHER SHARES.

Rubber shares have declined with other stocks, but the better class properties have not given way to any great extent, though sufficiently so as to make them even more attractive, notably Cicely Ordinary now split into 2s. shares at 22s. 9d., Selangor at 34s., Straits Bertam at 32s., Sumatra Para at 2⅞ x.d. etc., and on any further reaction purchases would be promising. Rubber is firm again, fine hard Para at 8s. 10d., and the news is now to the effect that there will be no excessive quantities coming from the Amazon River. In fact, in some quarters, it is stated that this year's supply will fall short of last year's owing to shortness of labour and the flooded state of many of the forests, which prevents tapping operations being carried out on the usual scale. On the other hand the demand for rubber is stronger, and it is believed that consumption is increasing again.

Rubber investors should not overlook the Henriquez Estates, Limited, the £1 shares of which have recently been split into 2s. shares, which stand at 4s. to 4s. 6d. The company owns 40,000 acres of forest, containing rubber and mahogany trees, 600 acres of plantation containing about 120,000 rubber trees ranging from five to eight years, and 741 acres well fenced and amply watered, and suitable for the immediate planting of young rubber trees. This company has the advantage that the 120,000 plantation trees are already of mature age, so that there is no long period of waiting for the trees to grow, and that the forest, containing vast numbers of indigenous rubber trees, proves the fact that the soil is suitable for the growth of plantation rubber trees. The capital of the company is small, only £36,000, of which £31,000 has been issued the remainder being held in reserve for further working capital, should it be required. Rubber Explorations are a steady market, and it says a good deal for the strength of the position that when shares are falling right and left, the price of Rubber Explorations is well maintained.

WATER AND GAS—THE EATON GROUP OF COMPANIES.

Several enquiries and complaints have reached me of late concerning some of the Water and Gas Light Companies of which Mr. Edmund Eaton is the moving spirit, and I notice that Mr. Justice Joyce has, on the application of the Debenture holders, appointed Mr. C. Ryland Beeby, of 9, Bucklersbury, receiver of one of these Companies, the Ticehurst and District Water and Gas Works Company. The *Financial News* gives the names of a round dozen of companies of the same group. One of these is the Rawcliffe (Yorks.) and District Gas and Coke Company, Ltd., capital £10,000. An inhabitant of Rawcliffe informs me that their place does not belong to them, but they rent it only at £50 per annum, that the chief thing they have done is to lay about 1½ miles of mainpipes and the meters. The shareholders have not received any dividends yet, although in the prospectus, which was issued in November, 1907, the statement is made that "the Gasworks and business is an old established undertaking in good working order and revenue earning." My informant states that the street lamps, for which there is a contract with the Company, have not been lighted for seven nights this season, and that they had no gas for the houses either on the night of the 19th inst., and had to resort to candles, although they had gas in the houses before. "I don't know how we are going to go on," concludes my informant. I can sympathise with the unfortunate inhabitants of Rawcliffe, but I hope that they will bestir themselves and call upon the management to fulfil their contract, failing which the shareholders ought to be induced to put their house in order. Such management or mismanagement can only have one result, viz., that the Rawcliffe Company will share the fate of the Ticehurst Company, the future history of which I shall follow with much interest.

NEW ISSUES.—GOOD, BAD, AND INDIFFERENT.

Temporarily, promoters are taking in sail, owing to the advance in the Bank Rate to 5 per cent., but a few remnants were before the public during the week. I cannot quite see the advantage of buying *Brasil Railway* 4½ per cent. First Mortgage 60-Year Gold Bonds at 92, of which £3,500,000 is offered for issue in London and the rest of Europe. After all, the line is still in course of construction, and the company is strongly connected with New York, where things are not likely to be pleasant in the near future. Some more rubber companies are being placed before investors, amongst which there is the *Rubber Estates of Kedah, Ltd.*, capital £120,000 in 1,200,000 shares of 2s. each. I think this concern is heavily capitalised, and as the bulk of the Para rubber trees on the

property are from one to three-and-a-half years old, returns will come rather slowly. The property is situated in the State of Kedah, on the right bank of the Krian river, which divides Kedah from Perak territories in the Federated Malay States. As a matter of fact, all the best properties in Malay territory have already been floated into companies, and those now being brought forward are either inferior or too dear. That, no doubt, was the reason why the *Val d'Or Rubber Estates, Ltd.*, recently floated, with a capital of £90,000 in 2s. shares, did not meet with a favourable reception, the underwriters having been landed with 61 per cent. The price, therefore, fell at one time to 6d. discount, and is now quoted 5d. to 4d. discount, not very nice for subscribers to the shares, but it is satisfactory to find that investors are beginning to discriminate. Neither the *Anglo-Egyptian Mortgage and Loan Corporation* issue of debentures, nor the Turkish Loan has so far been brought out, better times evidently being awaited.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

Information will be readily supplied to readers of* John Bull *on the following conditions:—

(1) Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, John Bull, 2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

(2) Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, to which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.

(3) Replies are only made in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter. Communications received after Saturday cannot be dealt with in the current issue of the paper.

(4) Under no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.

(5) If inquirers wish it, the address of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, for transacting business, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.

H. H. H. (London), *H. T.* (Stoke-on-Trent), *G. G.* (Brixton Hill), *J. H.* (Aberystwyth), *J. R.* (Nairn), *H.* (Leeds), *E. D.* (Wick), and *G. G.* (Leicester).—What you say about the National Share Exchange has been carefully noted and full enquiry will be made into your respective matters. *Rock Ferry.*—Nothing against this Melbourne Debenture stock. *Amateur.*—I take it, the transactions were made through different stockbrokers? *Tat.*—(1) I have received no complaints, but I cannot guarantee the safety of outside brokers. (2) I am responsible only for my own advice, and not for that of other persons. *Ed. I. G.*—I should think you will have to take what you can get, if the concern is going into liquidation. J. A. C.—The name of the firm of foreign bankers in London who make a speciality of Premium Bonds is forwarded to you. *Peter.*—No, I do not anticipate a rise in Consols for the present. *Tyke.*—If these people pretend to know all about Premium Bonds they ought to have known that the bond was drawn, and I do not think they can now bother you. *London, S.E.*—For the investment of your £600 you should select some of the Industrial Debentures mentioned in my article, also Japanese 4½ per cent. Bonds, and the last West Australian 3½ per cent. Loan, which yields over 3½ per cent. per annum. *Electric.*—The Simmer Deep is now crushing and earning profits, and should shortly enter the dividend list. They are an excellent investment.

One of John Bull's *Many Admirers.*—Do you think really that anybody would not realise at once that this Canadian Pacific price was merely a printer's error, and do you think that anyone would sell a Bear on such? *Stanley* (Liverpool, South).—You cannot really expect me to make myself responsible for an answer to your question. I cannot guarantee other people. *Sugar Loaf.*—The circular carries its own condemnation, and should be consigned to the W.P.B. *G. H. U.*—Same reply. *Nemo* (Broughton).—(1) I should advise you not to touch Vaal River Goldfields. (2) No. Later on I will discuss the matter. *Speculation* (Dalmuir).—You should be very careful, as this is not a leading mine, and it is impossible to obtain confirmation of the statements. *Trebla.*—The circular clearly shows that these people are touting for blind pools. Have nothing to do with them. *L. A. W.*—No further information is available, although some statement must be made shortly. *R. J. G.* (Maryhill).—This is the usual blind pool circular. Have nothing to do with the concern. *Furbob* (Reading).—The three outside concerns are all tarred with the same brush, circularising outside brokers, to whom you should give a wide berth. The mining shares mentioned are dear at any price. *Reader* (Rugby).—You do not apparently know that there is a difference between the buying and selling price, and I consider the offer the firm made you quite as good as you can expect. (1) No. (2) No. *S. T. K.* (Highbury Park).—(1) In view of the revival in Rhodesians, these shares should be held. Nos. 2 and 3, Home Rails, should not be sold now, as there is after all a chance of a rally. The reply to No. 4 is "No." *Maurice L.* (Paris).—The Berlin Proprietary Mines are a subsidiary of the Harmony Proprietary Company, and own a valuable farm on the Murchison Range. Whenever the Silati Railway extension is completed, some time next year, they should rise to higher prices. *C. L.* (Short Street).—(1) Fairly so. (2) You can buy West Australian 3½ per Cent. Government Stock, which is one of the Colonial Inscribed Stocks, at 96, and they will yield you over 3½ per cent. Any stockbroker will buy them for you, and they are cheaper and safer than the Building Societies' shares. *M. A. M.*—The Birkbeck. *W. S.* (Peckham).—You should not buy Premium Bonds through this concern. You will have to pay through the nose for them. *M. C. R.* (Harrow Road).—I have never heard of the firm. They certainly are not members of the Stock Exchange. As regards the Matrimonial publications, they are in existence, but whether you will obtain any results is exceedingly doubtful. *Scapula.*—It seems to me exceedingly risky to invest £500 in order that your son should obtain an appointment. In the majority of cases this kind of bait leads to very unsatisfactory results, and I do not think much of the concern. *A. M. B.* (Acton).—There is such a thing as putting too many eggs into one basket, and rather than do as you propose, I should advise you to invest the money in several sound securities—Industrial Debentures, Brewery Debentures, or even dividend-paying Kaffir shares—in which case you can be quite sure of your money. *Taffy.*—Sell if you can. *Jingo.*—(1) I know nothing about it, and there is no connection. (2) Impossible to tell. *Ungelicats.*—High rates of deposit are not compatible with safety. Why don't you put the money into sound securities? *Mutual* (Cork).—You know more about the Bourse and Exchange of 28, Basinghall Street, London, E.C., than I do. If, as you say, they have given up business at that address, I do not see how you are to get your money. Why do you not deal with a member of the Stock Exchange instead of these outside concerns? *H. D. J.*—Rhodesian Bankets, Rhodesia Exploration, and Amalgamated Props. are good holdings amongst Rhodesians, but it is obviously impossible to tell exactly what prices they will go to. That depends largely upon general market conditions. *Admirer* (Penzance).—It is a pity you did not clear the profit offering at 2s. per share on Egyptian Estates. However, they should rise to that level again presently. *Euchred.*—(1) See table of Industrial shares in last week's issue. (2) Yes, as an investment. *A. B. C.*—The four stocks mentioned are good of their class, but the best are Mitchell's and Butler's Prefs. (2) Hold Lloyds Bank shares (5), and see paragraph on banks in the present issue. *A K.*—Your interpretation of the word "Acceptances" is correct, but you can rest assured that the banks cover themselves by the best security, and therefore run very little risk. The explanation of this difference in deposits of the two banks in question is that they do quite a different class of business; the latter lays itself out specially to attract even the smallest deposits. *Fishy.*—This concern has been a great disappointment and it is more than doubtful whether it will ever enter the dividend list. The principal market for the shares is in Glasgow. *Jordan.*—Sell Nos. 1 and 2 on the first opportunity. As regards No. 3, there is no market for Law Car and General Insurance shares; the accounts are usually submitted in December. The La Rose (4) is a leading Cobalt silver mine, but the shares already stand pretty high. You can do better in South Africans. *A. B. C.* (Surrey).—Mazawattee Tea are more than usually speculative, and the Industrials recommended by me last week would be preferable. *T. R.* (Perry Barr).—I am afraid not; no doubt the balance has gone in liquidation expenses. *Teign.*—(1) Waihi Grand Junction: Issued capital £385,000 in £1 shares. No dividends paid yet. Mine developing fairly well, but no data available regarding probable life and ore reserves. (2) This mine has fallen upon evil days, and the shares should be left alone. (3) The Rhodesia Copper has possibilities, but a holding of the shares would call for much patience. (4) Ginsberg: Issued capital £210,000, £1 shares, estimated life about nine years, last dividend 2½ per cent. for half-year. *R. H. H.*—He who buys U.S. Steels gives hostages to fortune. From every point of view it would be far preferable to go into a more stable stock. *Governess.*—Japanese 4 per Cents., Argentine Rescission Bonds, and the Chilian 1889 Loan. It would be preferable to buy these through a stockbroker—a member of the "House." If you wish it, and send me a stamped addressed envelope, I shall be pleased to forward you the address of a reliable firm. *V. R. D.*—The news with regard to the Van Ryn Deep is more encouraging as regards assays, but until the value of the ore has been proved beyond doubt, the shares are no more than a fair mining risk. *S. B.*—The firm went into liquidation some time ago, and your shares are valueless. A. J. R.—All are fair purchases at present prices, but with most scope of capital improvement in Liptons and, perhaps, Bradford Dyers. *Cyder.*—The tables of Industrial securities in last week's issue should meet your requirements. Also put a portion of the money into Japanese and leading South American securities. *Colm.*—(1) No recent news, but worth holding for a recovery. (2) Johnnies are well worth holding for 40s., and more. (3) Yes, keep Goldfields as a speculative investment, but much depends upon the forthcoming dividend announcement. (4) Take a fair profit on Jumpers Deep. (5) Marconi's Telegraph have fair prospects, unless some competitive scheme crops up. (6) I do not care for these shares; General Motor Cab issues would be distinctly preferable. *Ferrite.*—(1) This mine may come right eventually, but I do not think you will ever see your price again. (2) Hold Great Westerns. Also keep Nos. 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, and 12 for higher prices. There is very little hope for No. 5, and No. 6 depends upon finding salvation in Nicaragua. No. 9 can hardly go much lower. *Dee.*—There is no market in S. F. Edge. Although the concern was formed in July, 1907, no report has apparently yet been issued, and no dividend paid, which does not say much for its prospects. *Kentish.*—In view of the heavy reduction in the Mount Boppy dividend to only 1s. per share, it would be advisable to take an early opportunity to sell. *Crow's Pal.*—Some Colonial Government Bonds would be suitable, including the last Westralian 3½ per Cent. loan. *Blue Owl.*—Try the Cardiff Stock Exchange for the former, and Newcastle for the latter. *W. H. H.* (Camden Town).—The group of concerns in questions is of a very doubtful character, and you had better not have anything to do with them. *D. D. D.*—This tip may, or may not, come off, but, for my part, I consider Transvaal gold shares far preferable. *Clifton.*—There is no market here for these shares, and you had better make your inquiries locally. As a general rule, it is advisable to stick to shares in which there are dealings in London. *S. H. W.*—This is a fancy financial scheme, which carries its own condemnation with it. Give it a wide berth. *J. M. L.*—I am inclined to agree with your optimistic views as regards Salvador Bonds, but the fly in the ointment is the revolutionary spectre, which has always to be reckoned with in the case of the majority of the South American Republics. *C. J. M.*—The London General Omnibus Company is doing so badly that it might be advisable to get rid of these Debentures, and go into something more promising. *Booker.*—There is no market for the shares of the Carpathian Mines, and, if you are actually a holder, you have no option but to keep them. *C. W. Coram.*—(1) Queensland 4 per Cent. are a good investment. (2 and 3) Bovril and Schweppes are fair Industrial investments. (4) The Robinson Central Deep has been absorbed by the Crown Mines, whose shares are an excellent holding amongst Kaffirs. (5) New Primrose are also promising. *Scruple.*—Yes, the full 2½ per cent. was paid on Trunk Second Prefs. for the first half of the current year. *Nemo.*—International Linotypes are quoted at 71, and are a fair Industrial holding. *Wargrave.*—I have no special knowledge of this concern, but you would be better advised to place the sum in the P.O. Savings Bank. *Leeds.*—The only information available is that the issued capital is £300,000, and that development work is in progress. There is no market for the shares. *A. T. B.* (Market Drayton).—(1) These insurance shares cannot be called "safe," but they are a fair holding of the kind. (2) Take your profit on the Nitrate shares. (3) The Industrial Debentures recommended by me in last week and in previous week's issues would be distinctly preferable. *E. B.* (Glasgow).—The various Canadian Land Debentures in question may be sound enough, but as they are hardly known on this side, and there is no market here for any of them, they are hardly a suitable holding for the Ordinary British investor. *Gallus.*—(1) There does not appear to be much chance for Ashanti quartzite. (2) Van Ryn Deep may come right one of these days. (3) Rand Klips should be held. (4) I do not care much for this stock. *J. E. J.*—Welsbachs are quoted at 3s. 9d., but I cannot tell you why this does not appear in the daily papers. You might take advantage of any rise to get rid of them, and go into something more promising. *Liverpool Scot.*—It is a bad thing to have anything to do with these "sixpence-a-share" touts, as you make yourself liable for all sorts of things. The company is not in the usual books of reference, and you had better make your inquiries in Liverpool. *Sea.*—It appears to me that in some respects the insurance business is being overdone, and from that point of view there are much better investments available than the shares in question. *Puritan.*—There is no information available, either with regard to the concern in question or to the company which you say has bought it up. *R. C. Mc. D.* (Leith).—I was under the impression that your inquiry had already been answered. It must have gone astray in some way. (1) The Gas, Water and General Investment Company is doing very badly, and there is no market here. (2) This Edinburgh concern is not known here. (3) Sell if you can. I am afraid they are valueless. I am not, of course, a mortgage broker, and cannot, therefore, advise you with regard to such properties. *T. H. M.* (Burton).—You should number the different stocks inquired about. Amongst the nine Kaffir shares mentioned, Simmer Deep, Roodepoort United, Ferriera Deep, and Jupiter are the most promising. *E. T.* (Maidenhead).—Mersey Dock Debenture stock would be more convenient than the Bonds. *J. A.*—100 square miles of farm lands in the Gwanda district, Rhodesia, 80 mining claims in the Tati district, and various shareholdings. (2) The new stock would not be of special advantage to holders of options. *Creasy.*—There is more competition to No. 4 than to any of the other stocks. Price 3¾. You might sell these and Babcock-Wilcox (1) now at 4¼. *G. B. G.*—There never was much chance of getting a profit in this option, and you will even in the best case lose part of your option money. *S. Y. N.*—As far as I can ascertain there is no market for Synoloids and very little value in them. *X. X. X.*—A very fair investment. Yes, it is income-tax. *Cycle.*—The opening of Hull and Barnsley was 54½—55 on that day.

but quite nominal, and by eleven o'clock 53 would have been the highest to be obtained. *A.l.o.n.e.*—I have not received any complaints, but I cannot guarantee the safety. *E. D. H.*—As you have a large profit in South African Territories, you might as well take it. *T. W. T.*—After your varied experience with outsiders, I should think you would have enough of them. *Lizzie* (Dublin).—I am sending you the address of a foreign banker in London, who can sell the Premium Bonds for you or give you competent advice. *Ignorant* (Oswestry).—You can get from £4 to £4 10s. per cent. per annum in Industrial Debentures, of which I gave eight different stocks on October 16th, page 522. Put £100 each in five of these Debentures, and you will have reasonable safety. *S. R.* (Staple Hill).—No; keep the money at the Savings Bank until you have a larger amount to spare. *Nemo* (Haverstock Hill).—You will find that this concern will disappear if it has not gone already. Why do you not go to see how the land lies? *Randite* (Paisley).—Yes, you might as well buy a few more of these shares, selling out more Consols, which do not look very hopeful. Rand Mines are a good investment. *H. T.* (Glasgow).—Hold the Santa Fé Land shares, but do not put too much money into them. If you want to invest in Whiteway, Laidlaw, Ltd., you had better select the Cum. Prefs., which return £5 6s. 9d. per annum on the investment. *St. Ives.*—High rates of deposit are not compatible with safety. You ought to be satisfied with 4 per cent. *Cautious* (Bristol).—I am responsible for my own advice on investments, but I cannot trouble about other people's recommendations. *Royal* (Wolverhampton).—Certainly not. *J. B.* (Glasgow).—Circularising touts of the worst kind. Have nothing to do with them. *A. H. J.*—There is very little hope for any of the shares mentioned, except perhaps Henderson's Transvaal. *Advance.*—The outlook for Trunks is doubtful at present, and, of course, they would be affected by any heavy fall in Americans. Better stand clear just now. *L. A. G.*—The statements at the meeting are by no means encouraging to Bulls of Trunks, and the possibility of a bad break in Americans, which would react adversely upon them also, must be taken into account. *A. Z.*—The best of the three shares are No. 3, but in their case, even, it would be advisable to await further developments regarding the recent new discoveries. *J. G. Y. D.*—A purely local concern, about which no information is available here. The Industrials mentioned in my article would be preferable. *E. T. P.*—It would be advisable to get rid of both as soon as a favourable opportunity offers. *Forest Gate.*—Fair speculative holdings, No. 1 being perhaps the best of the three. *R. F.*—You should now be getting 2½ per cent. for your money on deposit, but if you prefer to invest it in stocks and shares, my tables week by week will afford you all the necessary information. *A. B.* (Salford).—The stock markets have at present to contend with the dear money spectre, but there is no reason why you should not lay out the money to good advantage, say, in promising Industrial Debenture and Preference issues, of which I have been giving particulars in recent issues. *Nimrod.*—The last dividend on Temiscouta Income Bonds was 1 per cent., but an increase for the current year is anticipated. The Bonds are a fair speculative holding at under 34. *R. J.* (Rhondda).—The best channel through which to deal in these Premium Bonds is a firm of Foreign Bankers in London. *A. E. C.*—The Associated Gold Mines of W. A. is evidently getting to the end of its tether, and under present conditions the shares do not appear to be worth more than their current price. *Mick.*—I do not care for this concern, and you would do far better to withdraw the money and place it on deposit with the P.O. Savings Bank, where you can at any rate get 2½ per cent. *Croghaio.*—Mount Lyell Com. stock have improved to 4s. 1½d., and are a fair mining risk. *Kaffir.*—None of the rubber shares mentioned look up to much, and you must not buy such shares just because they are cheap. Clear out as soon as you can get the smallest profit. *Verax.*—No. 1 is preferable to No. 2. (3) I do not care much for these Preference shares. (4) Calico Printers are a comparatively long shot. (5) Outside brokers of a very disreputable type; have nothing to do with them. Last week's issue gave full details of where and how to buy John Bull Prefs. *Comp.*—There appears to be no other course open but to grin and bear it. The Committee were quite within their rights to issue Debentures. *J. R.*—(1) Ogilvie Flour Mills have already had a big rise, but may go still higher. (2) Southern Albertas may eventually cross 40s., but you might be able to get in presently on a reaction. *Menzies* (Cardiff).—This concern went into liquidation long ago. *A. B. C.*—There is no real market in the shares, and I should not advise an investment. It is a fashion of the moment, which may be superseded any day by a new craze. *Bull Dog.*—The concern in question has not a very good reputation, and you would do better to put your money into a reputable Building Society. *Would-be Optioner.*—You would do well to leave these circularising outside touts alone. It is extremely doubtful whether the options would be available if the stocks improved. *J. N. B.* (Coatbridge).—I cannot be an intermediary for selling your premium bonds. Why do you not sell them to the respectable firm of Foreign Bankers in London mentioned by you? *Engineer* (Greenwich).—The individual mentioned by you is a circularising outside tout, and you had best leave him alone. Rio Tintos fluctuate with the price of copper, and are also supported speculatively by American and Paris operators, but it is a dangerous stock to touch for people who know nothing of it. *I. M.* (Pontypridd).—I cannot reply by letter. I suppose that you have paid for the Panama Bond in question and have got it in your possession. Otherwise you have absolutely no chance to recover. Why do you deal with such outside concerns, which usually go into liquidation after a year or two? *Kopje.*—I am responsible for my own views of stocks and shares, but I cannot guarantee that of other newspapers. *Ajax.*—I cannot really advise you with regard to Continental lotteries. These circulars are being sent broadcast, but nearly all the intermediaries are shady, and a good many of the prizes stick to their fingers. *B. McD.*—The French Lottery is all over. *Tony* (Sydenham).—I could not possibly answer your question. High rates of deposit are not compatible with safety. *R. D. S.* (Glasgow).—Outside touts. Have nothing to do with them. *S. W.* (Wigan).—I cannot advise you as to the promises of other people. I am willing to stand by my own recommendations, but not by those of other persons. *J. G. R.*—If you have a friend in London, he could go to Somerset House, and by paying 1s. look at the register of shareholders of a limited company, but he would not be allowed to copy it. *M. W* (Colwyn Bay).—I note what you say with regard to the Stock Exchange Investment Corporation, and if what you say is correct you are not likely to hear. As regards the Premier Bonds, I should advise you to sell them. *Inquirer* (St. Leonards-on-Sea).—One need but look at the circulars of this concern, which have been before mentioned in my "Letter Box," to see that it is merely working a blind pool, and that you are not likely to make any profits through it. *Under Age.*—Under the circumstances, you have absolutely no control over the money left to you, which is at present in the hands of the executors until you come of age. *R. T.* (Sheffield).—I know of no people who would lend money to strangers on Mining and Industrial shares. That is usually done by your stockbroker, if you have one. I cannot reply by letter. *Thomas.*—I do not like the balance-sheets of the Building Society. You had far better leave the money in the Savings Bank. *Cuddy.*—It is only the usual thing with these circularising outside brokers, and your friend deserved what he got. Why did he allow himself to be bamboozled in this way? *Elephants.*—I am willing to stand by my own advice, but I am not going to trouble about that of other people. *F. J. A.*—I do not think these Home Railway stocks are tempting. *F. M.* (Woodford).—Fanti Mines will no doubt eventually recover, when the West Australian Market generally braces up. That will probably happen when South Africans go better. In the meantime, you will have to have patience. *L. H.* (Cannon Street Road).—Yes, the Capital and Counties Banking Company is a high-class London Bank. *J. H. B.*—I strongly advise you not to buy the Bond in this Building Society from your friend, as proposed. You might have to wait a very long time. The circular is returned. *Freehold Cottage.*—I do not know anything about the concern mentioned by you, but you might try the Birkbeck Building Society.

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

INSURANCE REPLIES.

Insurance Enquiries should be addressed Insurance Editor, 67, Long Acre, W.C.

THE PROGRESSIVE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—At last the almost endless wrangles and changes attendant upon the collapse of this unhappy company are over. Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady has granted a compulsory winding-up order, and sanctioned the proposal of the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow Assurance Company to take over so much of the company's business as was concerned with ordinary life assurance, and to issue new policies without any new medical examination. Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady, in giving judgment, said he had no doubt whatever that the arrangement is much to the benefit of policyholders as a whole. We agree. They will be insured in a substantial office for substantial sums, although not, unfortunately, for the same amounts as those for which they were originally insured.

REFUGE ASSURANCE CO.—H. A. (Leeds).—The Refuge does a very large industrial Assurance business, and its financial position leaves nothing to be desired.

NATIONAL DEPOSIT FRIENDLY SOCIETY.—(Stoke-on-Trent).—Yes, quite sound.

THE LAW GUARANTEE TRUST AND ACCIDENT SOCIETY, LTD.—H. T. (Brighton).—The money which has been called up from shareholders has been employed in taking over, in whole or part, mortgages which the company have guaranteed, with what result to shareholders we cannot say.

SCOTTISH WIDOWS' FUND LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—W. B. (Devonport).—As to stability, there is no sounder office in the kingdom.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—PEARL (Dingwall).—The office is doing a large and rapidly increasing business, more especially industrial, although possibly the other office you name would give you somewhat better results.

STATUS OF INSURANCE COMPANY.—J. T. E. (Tryedyrhim).—You would be much better advised in going to an office of higher standing.

PROGRESSIVE ASSURANCE CO.—S. E. (Edinburgh).—We have no reason to question the accuracy of the Receiver's statement, and your solicitors will, of course, see to it that your interests are protected as far as the unfortunate position of this defunct company permits it.

AMERICAN INSURANCE OFFICE.—A. H. S. (Streatham).—We should prefer the Mutual Life of New York.

INSURANCE OF HUSBAND.—B. Y. W. C. L. H. (Sidcup).—In the circumstances, you would have great difficulty in effecting the insurance, and we cannot give you an office of front rank that would be willing to undertake the business.

NORTH EAST INSURANCE CO.—PREVENTER (Islington).—It is a small non-tariff office. The number of shares issued to date is 29,000, on which 4s. per share is being paid. The premium income at present is roughly £5,500, and the claims made upon the company average, we are officially informed, about 40 per cent. of the amount of the income. The directorate are all Darlington men, and it is proposed to form a board for London. It was previously known under the title of the Mutual Plate Glass Insurance Company.

BRITISH NATUKAL PREMIUM LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—J. H. (Pendleton).—If the directors gave you their personal guarantee it, of course, stands, but we should be surprised to hear that they did so. In the other event, and however hard it may be to accept the terms offered by the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow Co., we think you had better do so. They are a thoroughly responsible company, and better something than nothing. You had much better get on sound ground by taking the London, Edinburgh and Glasgow policy, even though you have to write off loss.

BRITISH HOMES ASSURANCE CO., LTD.—J. T. B. (Bangor).—You have been misinformed. The company is sound and progressive. By the way, it has just changed its name to the City Life Assurance Co.?

STAR LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—PENWITH (Newbridge).—Yes, we think the special scheme for women workers devised by this office, under which a certain sum can be paid yearly, or three times a year, to meet the special wants of school mistresses, a very sound one.

MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.—J. B. (Manchester).—We do not think you will regret taking out a £1,500 limited policy with this office.

NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.—E. W. L. (Shepherd's Bush).—We cannot understand how anyone claiming to have a knowledge of the standing of insurance companies can make such a prejudicial statement respecting the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia, which is one of the strongest offices seeking business in the United Kingdom, and was established as far back as 1869.

TWO INSURANCE COMPANIES.—K. B. (Ipswich).—The Eagle Insurance Company is a company of high standing with a record of over a century, and its debenture policy seems to us very suitable for your purpose. The Metropolitan Life Assurance Society is also an office of very high standing. C. H. P. (Leeds).—We should prefer the Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society to the Standard Life Assurance Company. Your friend is quite right in saying that the former has been in existence about 80 years—in fact, it was founded in 1826. It is a purely mutual office, the whole profits being divisible among the participating policyholders. ANXIOUS INQUIRER (Low Fell).—Of the two we should much prefer the Legal and General.

SALVATION ARMY ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—J. W. (Belfast).—If the agent is worth powder and shot, and you can bring home the statement to him to the satisfaction of a court of law, you no doubt could recover from him, but we don't think you have any case against the society. You say they take their stand on the written policy, and we do not see how you are to upset it.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE CO., LTD.—ANXIOUS (Hastings).—It is a sound and progressive company, rapidly extending its life business.

EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY OF UNITED STATES.—CAUTIOUS (Acton).—It is, of course, a great company, but we prefer English offices.

SUN LIFE OF CANADA.—W. R. B. (Alfreton).—Do not be rendered uneasy by the statements of rival agents as to the unsatisfactory position of this company. It is the leading office in Canada, and is in every way worthy of the confidence of its policyholders. HUSSAR.—You could not do better with your £800.

FINE ART AND GENERAL INSURANCE CO.—D. A. D. (Abercynon).—If your friend carries the case into court it would be impossible to avoid stating his occupation. A claim of £140 for an accident that does not seem to have been a serious one on the part of a man earning 30s. a week would, we should imagine, be difficult to sustain in a court of law as against the insurance company.

IMMEDIATE ANNUITIES.—H. R. B. (Derby).—You do not give your age, but at most ages the National Mutual of Australasia would give you the best annuity, but the Sun Life of Canada is a trifle better at, say, the age of 60.

ENDOWMENT POLICY.—S. F. E. (Tooting).—Of the three offices you mention we should prefer the Liverpool and London, and Globe.

PURCHASE OF ANNUITY.—ANNUITANT (Oxon).—Both offices named by you are first-class offices, and there is no English company that would give you quite the same.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE CO., LTD.—X. Y. Z. (Hockley Heath).—Yes, this company is "a first-class, financially sound."

PROVIDENT ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.—ENQUIRER (Cowfold).—It has been established about 30 years and is highly prosperous.

UNITED KINGDOM TEMPERANCE AND GENERAL PROVIDENT INSTITUTION.—C. R. (Oldham).—It is among the best.

ROYAL INSURANCE CO., LTD.—X. Y. Z. (Walthamstow).—We do not see that you will be a gainer by the exchange. With this company endowment assurances require a surrender value of two years. If you took out one payable at the age of 55, and you were 25 at entry, after five years you would be entitled to £71 4s. Assuming your policy to be for £1,000, after ten years to £153 8s., and after 15 years to £249 6s.

EQUITABLE HOUSE PROPERTY CO., LTD.—IN DOUBT (Morristown).—We cannot advise it.

FER ER'S BURIAL.

The following description of the burial of Ferrer is worth translating from a French paper :—

"It was by a very special favour that the relations of the victim were allowed to be present at his burial. Ferrer remained visible in his open coffin, according to the Spanish custom, until the last moment. The modest coffin of blackened pine was brought down in the night. Ferrer was stretched out in the same grey garments which have been seen in his latest photographs. His head was wrapped in blood-stained bandages, but this sinister turban did not conceal the broken bones and the fragments of his oozing brain. His right cheek-bone was broken in, and an open wound stretched up to his temples. His throat was bleeding a little and had been stopped up with a handful of chalk. In the middle of his forehead, a small orifice revealed the passage of a bullet which had gone out at the top of his skull. His face was bloodless, but his hands were swollen and black, and added to the sinister horror of the spectacle. When the coffin was lifted for burial, I noticed that it had been standing on a big pool of blood, and, all through the funeral procession, the horrible box left traces of its passage along the road. The authorities would not allow burial in a private tomb, and the remains were consigned to the common ditch. The family, however, was permitted to put a stone to indicate where he had been buried. His mother was taken ill during this painful ceremony. It is related that this poor old woman came to the office of the Castle of Montjuich the previous evening asking to see her son, not knowing that he had already been shot. Permission was refused without any explanations being given."

NOTICE TO JOHN BULL LEAGUE MEMBERS.

An exceedingly neat badge can now be obtained by members of the League. For gentlemen it takes the form of a waistcoat button or a small disc to be worn in the lapel of the coat, while for lady members a hatpin has been designed. The badges are handsomely enamelled, black on ivory, and consist of the well-known design of John Bull and his dog, with the simple inscription, "John Bull League." in the style of lettering the title on our cover has made familiar. They are mounted in rolled gold, and are in no way an advertisement of the journal. The price of the badges is 1s. each. Gentlemen members should state whether a waistcoat button or disc is desired.

The full words and music of the League Song—8 pages—is now ready, price 6d.

Any, or all of the above may be obtained from the Secretary of the League, 67, Long Acre, upon remittance of the respective amounts. No charge is made for postage or packing.

LAY OF THE BUSINESS GOVERNMENT.

The burgesses of Britain
  By their right hands they swore
The freedom of the nation
  Should suffer wrong no more:
By their right hands they swore it,
  And vowed to sweep away
The muddle, and mendacious tricks
That cling to party politics
  And on the people prey.

A John Bull League they formed then,
  And wide it spread and fast,
For city, town, and village
  Were getting tired at last,—
Tired of the party squabbles,
  Tired of the party lies,
The frenzied setting up of laws
Fanatical and full of flaws,
  As cranks can well devise.

Then, after years of struggle,
  There came a glorious day
When all the cranks and humbugs
  At last were swept away;
When hypocrites no longer
  To Westminster were sent—
For Britain, flourishing and strong,
Had what she'd wanted all along—
  A Business Government!

"Retlaw."

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The Razor that FITS THE FACE.
NO CUTS, IRRITATION OR SORENESS.

A SMOOTH, CLEAN SHAVE IN LESS THAN ONE MINUTE.

Equal to any Guinea Razor and you save £1 on the deal.

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100	50	20	100	50	25
4/9	2/6	1/-	6/-	3/-	1/6

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October 26th, 1909.

All bargains are transacted in the Stock Exchange.

We have special facilities for obtaining advance information relative to the Mining and Industrial Markets. Our Industrial Market Report appears every Wednesday in the "Financial News," and on Thursdays in the "Financial Times."

MINING MARKET POSITION AND PROSPECTS.

Just as in boom times we were instrumental in saving our clients and the public large sums of money when we advertised on June 2nd that great discrimination should be used in purchasing Mining Securities, so to-day we sound a note of warning against a sudden tendency to sacrifice intrinsically valuable shares at unduly depreciated quotations. Prices have during th past few days been ruthlessly "marked down" in the Stock Exchange, in many cases without adequate reason It is true that the money position is temporarily unfavourable; it is true that the Political situation at home has engendered a certain amount of unrest, but both these factors are but transitory and cannot in any way affect intrinsic values.

But for the factors above mentioned, KAFFIRS, RHODESIANS, and WEST AFRICANS were ripe for, if not "a boom," at least a substantial and justifiable appreciation in prices. As far as these three sections of the market are concerned, nothing has changed unless it is for the better, and it may even now be that the promised "boom" will be witnessed in the near future.

Our advice is, do not be led into a spirit of panic, *but buy while the market is low whatever you can afford to take up and pay for!* The American Market position notwithstanding, those who are best able to form a sound judgment look for a rise in copper owing, among other reasons, to the huge contracts that have been placed for the electrification of railways both in the United States and at Home, and certain copper shares are, in our opinion, cheap at their current quotations.

The following are shares in the three sections referred to which should be immediately bought, and for which recommendations we give our reasons in brief:—

CONSOLIDATED GOLDFIELDS.

The position of the Company has greatly improved this year. Should pay at least 25 to 30 per cent. Has acquired very valuable West African and Rhodesian interests since issue of last report.

JOHANNESBURG CONSOLIDATED INVESTMENT.

Paid 10 per cent. in June, and has had a record year according to the last report and balance-sheet. The shares should certainly go much higher with the resumption of activity in Kaffirs.

GENERAL MINING AND FINANCE.

The profit for the year ended 31st December, 1908, was £148,347. Very large profits have since been earned owing to the brighter condition of the Kaffir market for several months in the current year.

KNIGHT CENTRAL.

The company is rapidly approaching the dividend-paying stage. It is expected to make its first return to shareholders at the end of the current year. The life of the mine, with its 893 reef claims, would be about 80 years on the basis of crushing with 120 stamps.

WEST RAND CONSOLIDATED.

This company has been profit earning for some time. The recent issue of debentures has left the current profits free for distribution. The first dividend will be paid either at the end of the present year or early in 1910.

CITY DEEP.

This property gives promise of becoming one of the most prosperous of the Deep Level Propositions. Developments have disclosed a remarkable persistency to gold contents throughout the main reef leader, and crushing should be commenced in the autumn of 1910. On a conservative estimate the mine will have a life of 37 years.

AFRICAN FARMS.

This company owns a total of 1,642,000 acres of freehold farm land, a 74 per cent. interest in the Diepkloof Mynpacht adjoining the New Vierfontein Mines recently absorbed by the Crown Mines; and other valuable assets.

BRITISH AND COLONIAL INVESTMENT.

This is one of the Abe Bailey group. It possesses most valuable mining and share interests, and will, it is said, henceforth participate on ground-floor terms in any project issuing from Mr. Abe Bailey's office. The shares are particularly cheap at the present quotation.

RHODESIA BANKET.

This is the parent of the El Dorado Company, and it has a considerable interest in the district of the New Abercorn Banket discoveries. It is now proceeding with active work on 45 claims known as the "Rowdy Boys," adjoining the El Dorado Mines, on the whole length of which, about 6,000ft., the Banket series of Reefs was proved. The company's financial position is powerful, and it has already paid an interim dividend of 15 per cent. this year.

GIANT MINES.

Capitalised at only £250,000, this company is under the management of the Consolidated Goldfields of South Africa. The value of the ore bodies has greatly increased with the attainment of depth in the mine, and the recent developments have exceeded the most sanguine expectations. The reef in the No. 6 level is of enormous width.

ELDORADO BANKET.

Property comprises 150 claims. The values and widths of the ore bodies increase as the workings get deeper. At December, 1908, ore reserves were valued at £1,500,000. Three dividends of 10 per cent. each have been paid this year At a moderate computation the ore reserves on the basis of this year's figures should be worth not less than £2,212,000. Among the cheaper Rhodesians, AMALGAMATED RHODESIAN and PROPERTIES and BULAWAYO and GENERAL EXPLORATIONS (commonly known as BULLORDS) should receive attention as promising speculative purchases.

ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS CORPORATION.

Capital, £250,000, in 4s. shares. Company owns 100 square miles, on which several mines are being worked. Last dividend paid in 1908 20 per cent. Is at present crushing about 7,000 tons per month, but with new plant in course of erection will be treating 11,000 a month early in 1910.

PRESTEA BLOCK A.

This is one of the producing companies, the plant comprising 60 stamps (50 more to be erected) concentration and cyanide works. According to the engineer's report, presented in July last, the ore reserve amounted at that time to some 300,000 tons, with an average of 10 dwts The company should do extremely well. CINNAMON BIPPO, FANTI CONSOLIDATED and EFFUENTA shares should also be amongst the first to benefit by any revival.

WHIM WELL COPPER MINES.

One of the most promising, as it is one of the best organised of producing and profit-earning copper properties, is the Whim Well Copper Mine, situated in the Pilbarra district of North-West Australia.

So successful have the operations proved that the company was enabled to pay an interim dividend of 10 per cent. in July last. If, as is anticipated, the tests now being made at the lower levels with a diamond drill should prove the existence of sulphide bodies, the Whim Well will rank among the leading copper producing ventures.

Since 1907 the company has shipped to the smelters 8,184 tons of bagged ore averaging about 19½ per cent., and of that amount 6,297 tons have been realised for £67,917.

The regular monthly shipments from the mine now amount to about 600 tons.

The amount of ore at grass is estimated at 26,000 tons, and the amount available by the Adit levels at not less than 200,000 tons, giving 10 per cent. of copper, while the manager reports that the diamond drill "has disclosed a massive ore horizon carrying pyrites at depth."

The capital of the Whim Well Co. is £150,000 in £1 shares, of which 142,000 are issued and fully paid up. Its assets include 100 acres freehold, 340 acres leasehold, a railway 14 miles long connecting with the port of Balla.

Whim Well Copper shares are now quoted at about 1 1-16, and on the brief facts enumerated must be considered one of the cheapest securities in the Copper section.

RHODESIA COPPER.

Owns a large amount of farm property in Rhodesia, and has in addition substantial share interests. The property includes ten farms, on one of which there is a waterfall capable of generating electric power for use, if necessary, at the British Broken Hill. The company is providing £30,000 towards the construction of a railway which will practically be at the door of the mine now being developed.

For our Rules of Business, Scale of Commissions, and Option List, apply to the Manager OLIVER & PARTNERS, Ltd., 68, St. James's Street, London, S.W.

"IN THE AIR."

NOTES ON AVIATION.

By W. Parker.

Polemics.

The fight is only beginning between the official and the outside aviating bodies in England. The Aeroplane Club's call to a "conference" next week is carrying things with a high hand. Nobody need be afraid of the Aero Club's collapsing under the attack. The flights of the Aeroplane Club are mostly confined to the oratorical sort, and hard words will break no bones.

Port Aviation.

The Juvisy meeting would have ended as it began, with indifferent success, were it not for the glorious feat of De Lambert. It will make a good training ground for the young aviators, and that will perhaps be its ultimate destiny. It needs considerable "spade-work" still, and even then will never be ideal for long-sustained flights on account of the hills around it, which cause turbulent downward currents very difficult to negotiate at times. All such points must be well considered when the site of a flying ground is being canvassed, and we hope they will not be forgotten at future English fixtures.

The British Meeting.

Blackpool was a great and emphatic success in spite of deplorable weather, and Latham's final fight with a 30-mile breeze was worthy of a hero. The crowds behaved well, but were critical enough when the performances failed to reach par. After the first excitement, succeeded a sort of indifference unless something startling was taking place. Some folks get *blasé* over aeroplanes pretty quickly, and flying meetings can easily be overdone. You must collect all the talent available and do the things well, as Blackpool most certainly did, or the golden gate-money of the moment may die down to a surprisingly small figure.

The English Flyers.

If the British aviators did little in the air there is no doubt about the *excellence* in construction of some of their machines, and when we are humble enough to follow the lines of the great foreign machines we shall soon do better. The British are attacking the motor question very assiduously, and must soon produce valuable results. Another new aero-motor, the "R.H.," of the 4-cylinder type, and rated at 40-h.p., has a number of good, sound engineering features, and one of its original points is the fitting of a wire-spoke flywheel, a form of construction not seen before in connection with aerial motors. The "N.E.C." and the "Green" are also two motors well up to the continental standard.

Orville Wright in England.

When Orville Wright has inspected his Short biplanes, now completed at Shellbeach, there will be great happenings down on the little Sheppey sands. These Wrights, Farmans and Blériots cannot be trusted to stay on the ground for a minute. What if we should have a world's record in England before the end of the season? It would be just in the historic Wright manner to do something of the kind. May we be there to see!

The Provincial Clubs.

These are springing up all over the country, and Bristol, Portsmouth and Northumberland are the latest additions to the list. Nothing could be more encouraging for the future of aviation in England, and it is to be hoped that the management will devolve upon responsible persons who will substitute judicious effort for mere enthusiasm and put Flight first and Themselves afterwards, in the scale of importance. Above all, jealousy and controversy should be sternly repressed in the interests of true advancement. A scheme of affiliation or general submission to a responsible central body should be easy to frame now, and, as one "cannot be too careful in the choice of one's parents," the local clubs should be wary about bestowing their allegiance. They cannot take it back easily. Before aviation gets its summer renaissance next year things will be far advanced. The real problem lies in the workshops, where we need busy brains and hands. The controversialists are noisy and self-assertive, but will always remain on *terra firma*. We have waited centuries for flight, and already the greatest of all sciences threatens to become a vulgar gamble and its illimitable field is in danger of being degraded into a cockpit for squabbling speculation. Let us keep the sport as clean as may be. In aviation there is only one man who has any real title to consideration—the man who flies!

Do any of our readers know anything of Messrs. Douglas and Co., who describe themselves as export and import merchants, 60, Haymarket, S.W. Several of our readers had applied for a position as buyer in Australia, and each was informed by Messrs. Douglas and Co. that his name was one of eight which they proposed cabling out to their friends in Australia with qualifications, asking them to select three from whom Messrs. Douglas and Co. can make the appointment. It seems a roundabout method of getting a buyer, and we are not more favourably impressed by the fact that Messrs. Douglas and Co. have asked each of the eight applicants to forward them 5s. to pay for the cost of the cablegram.

IMPORTANT— ANNOUNCEMENT

TO

INVESTORS

BY

Curtis Gardner & Co

Such ample evidence have we of the lack of facilities for Investors to get into touch with the BROKERS who conduct a genuine business and the need of a reliable firm through whom stocks and shares may be purchased and sold—investments made or speculations entered into—or through whom the public can obtain an introduction to substantial members of the Stock Exchange, that we have decided to give increased publicity to our Securities Department, and to enlarge its scope and facilities, so as to provide Investors with a trustworthy medium for effecting such transactions.

OPTIONS and Speculative Accounts

Through Members of The Stock Exchange.

In view of the many requests we have received for facilities for option business and the difficulties experienced by the general public in arranging Speculative and Option business through members of the London Stock Exchange, we have made special arrangements which enable us to give introductions for transacting such business through

STOCK EXCHANGE MEMBERS ONLY

on the most satisfactory and profitable lines.

INFORMATION BUREAU.

Subscribers to our Information Bureau (the subscription to which is £1 1s.) are entitled to (1) a book of 21 Enquiry Cheques, each good for a free report; (2) "Financial Intelligence" post free, weekly; (3) special information by letter. We frequently receive special information concerning some particular share or group of shares, and this is sent to all subscribers who intimate they would like to receive it. We do not, of course, claim to be infallible, but our organisation is for the purpose of supplying, so far as possible, rapid reliable intelligence. Full particulars of our Information Bureau will be sent on application.

To **CURTIS GARDNER & CO., LTD.,**

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Please send me:—

1. Particulars of your Information Bureau.
2. Introduction to reliable Stock Brokers (members of the London Stock Exchange) who will undertake Investment, Speculative or Option business.
   (Cross out "Investment," "Speculative," or "Option," in accordance with requirements.)
3. Latest option rates for dealings through Inside Stock Brokers.
4. Quote option rate upon..... for ..... months.
5. List of shares to purchase, with prospects of early appreciation in capital value.
   (Cross out in accordance with your requirements.)

Name.....

Address .....

THE DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

By M. Clement Scott.

"The Little Damozel."

Monckton Hoffe is a daring author! Monckton Hoffe is a clever writer! He has seized the volume of stage convention, flung it into the burning flames, given to stageland an absolutely novel sensation, and it is little short of wonderful, the manner in which he has blended the minor with the major chords of life and turned both the characters of Recklaw Poole, the shady adventurer, who has been "warned off the turf," and Julie Alardy, an immoral little baggage who has had a "past" with a certain Captain Neil Partington, into sympathetic, interesting and—shall I say it?—yes, two lovable people.

Every stage ethic may be crushed out of existence, but there it is, the fact remains the same. The hero of Monckton Hoffe's play is an unprincipled blackguard who accepts money from Captain Partington for marrying his cast-off mistress; the heroine is a divinity who has strayed from the path of peace and purity, and is a member of the band which discourses sweet music at the Café Angelique, near Shaftesbury Avenue, and yet Monckton Hoffe succeeds in influencing his audiences for good at Wyndham's Theatre in the Charing Cross Road.

"The Merry Peasant."

He's a sad sort of fellow is "The Merry Peasant," who has just become the new tenant of the Strand—once Waldorf—Theatre.

Pretty as the music may be, it cannot be compared with the score of "The Dollar Princess," Leo Fall's other work, which is delighting everybody at Daly's Theatre, and which a little bird tells me, may presently be removed to the Adelphi, on account of—but no matter—more of this anon! "The Merry Peasant" has but a few of those lilting melodies which are so attractive in George Edwardes's latest production; it is even at times inclined to be heavy, and, oh! what a tedious libretto! Not for many moons have I been obliged to listen to such senseless lines and would-be jokes which never arrive at any point.

It is positively piteous to see such clever comedians as George Giddens and Arthur Williams struggling so hard to be funny; they do their best, it is true, but the material is so flimsy there is hardly a thread to catch hold of.

The remainder of the strong cast that Mr. J. A. Harrison has gathered together work equally hard—a little too much so perhaps at times—in their earnestendeavour to make the show something of a success, but delightfully as Courtice Pounds sings, artistic as Miss Florence St. John always is, and sincerely as Miss Sybil Arundale and Messrs. Julius Walther and Leslie Stules work, they are, I regret to say, unable to impress the audience favourably with "The Merry Peasant," and "after the opera was over" the pit and gallery "hup and spoke thier minds."

A Provincial Tour.

The Editor of John Bull has sent me the following explanation from Mr. Leigh Lovel who, although he does not deny that he was unable to pay his company their last week's salaries, says the total amount did not exceed £10, and that it is both cruel and unjust to pillory him in the correspondence he complains of, and which appeared in the issue of this journal on October 9th.

Now, as John Bull is for fair and square play or nothing, it is only right to give as much publicity to Mr. Leigh Lovel's letter as it was to print the "round robin" signed by several members of his company, who complained of the treatment they had received from him.

October 15th, 1909.

Sir,—In reference to the correspondence published in your Theatrical column regarding myself, I ask you to accord me the same publicity in declaring it to be extremely misleading and unjust.

I do not carry on business as an actor-manager on the lines suggested by the letters in question and by your own contributor: nor could anyone claim, by any stretch of imagination, to have been stranded on the occasion in question. Two of the signatories left to go to previously arranged engagements, and except for two members of the company, who wrote out I O U forms (which I signed at their own request) the *total amount* of the deficiency among the rest of the signatories would have been more than covered by £3 (three pounds).

Yours very faithfully,

Leigh Lovel.

Do You Want a Guinea?

If so, see page iii of cover.

THE PINE FOREST AT HOME.

"Sanitas"

OIL.

Vapourised in a "SANITAS FUMIGATOR" by means of a Night Light,

CURES. WHILE YOU SLEEP,

ASTHMA, CROUP, WHOOPING COUGH, INFLUENZA, BRONCHITIS.

2/6 Each

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"Sanitas Oil," 1/- and 4/- Bottles.
"Sanitas Inhalers," 1/- and 2/6 each.
"Sanitas Embrocation," 1/- and 2/6 Bots.
"Sanitas Soluble Oil" (for Pine Baths), 1/- and 4/- Bottles.
"Sanitas Pastilles," 1- Tins.
"Sanitas Pocket Spittoons," 1/3 and 2/6 each.

"To breathe 'Sanitas' is to breathe Health."
—GORDON STABLES, C.M., M.D., R.N.

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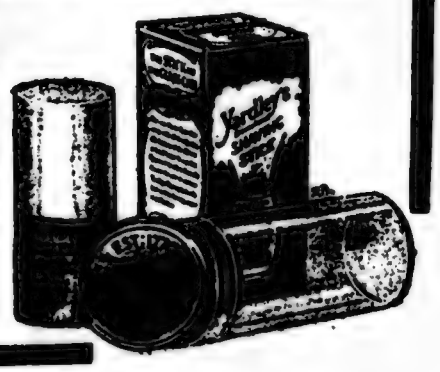
is unequalled for its soothing creamy lather, which lies on the skin like an ointment. It permits a clean shave in one operation and leaves the skin cool and comfortable.

It is British made and beats the foreign.

Try it now. 1s. of all Chemists, or of Yardley & Co., Limited, the makers, Stratford, London, E.



BULL'S EYES.

Notes of Interrogation:—
Is the Premier going "to the country" for a holiday?
Will Bermondsey's verdict on Free Trade be "No Hughes"?
Why not call him Mr. Unabel Smith now?
Didn't Hall Caine write "The White Prophet" for a yellow ditto?
Is Hunnable going to "take a rise" out of the country?
Has Dr. Stephen Paget lost his "patients"?
Aren't the Lancashire Territorials a "fine" body of men?
Did Mr. Tussaud catch Cody in a waxy mood?
Why is Keir Hardie allowed to air his sovereign contempt?
Doesn't Spain know that one "dead lion" may be more powerful than a hundred "live asses"?
Hasn't the Savoy Hotel souvenir affair touched British firms on a "tender" spot?
Hadn't the Church heard of the Congo atrocities before?
Will one chapter of Dr. Cook's book be devoted to North Pole gulls?

The life of an aeroplanist must be a hard one—it is all ups and downs.

The statement that cycles are to be dearer next year means, we suppose, that more will be sold on the higher system.

"Pride is not a marketable commodity," says Mr. F. H. Digby. Yet many folk pocket it.

"Fugitives from Fortune," a new book is called. Misfortune, no doubt.

"It isn't fair," said a prisoner at Highgate, when his past was raked up. It must have been a dark one.

An astronomer says that the earth will be swept by the tail of Halley's comet next May. The comet must be in a waggish mood.

The Rev. and Hon. Horatio Nelson has been presented with a piece of plate on his resignation. Collection plate?

"Organ Played by Handel," we read. Nothing new.

"The sword cannot keep any empire together," says Professor Pollard. But it is good fencing material against trespassers.

At the annual ploughing matches at Brightlingsea, six ladies took a "share" in the contests.

Mr. Sutro's remark that "brains and beauty are seldom united in real life," is a slur upon our authors, or their wives.

"Omnibus in an Area," says a headline. Rather a congested area.

If, as Mr. Churchill says, the Suffragist cause has marched backwards, there must have been men behind it.

"Should Clergymen Marry?" asks the *Evening News*. Certainly. Why should they be exempt?

"Unbridled Socialism," reads an *Express* headline. But the Socialists don't want a bit—they want it all.

There is to be a Tariff Reform Exhibition next year. But it will have a show before then.

The boy who whistles works best, according to the Bishop of Chichester. The boy who whistles in our office won't work at all.

A mare named Maud Allan won a race recently. We understand there was nothing much on her.

The Budget is said to be paralysing the building trade. This is "stroking" the builders the wrong way.

"The woman we love is a miracle," says Mr. T. Antrim. But miracles won't always work.

"'Let the dead' past bury its dead' does not apply to a criminal," said an ex-convict at Herts Quarter Sessions. No; his past is always present.

A writer in a contemporary alleges that our actors "haven't the faintest notion of how to drink naturally." "Bitter" sarcasm.

The *Nimrod* is fishing up a decent sum for charity.

The boy at Bath, summoned for pulling the pigtail of a Chinese lady, was evidently bubbling over with pawky humour.

At Stepney Workhouse, any inmate disturbing others by snoring, is ordered to sleep with the deaf. This is paying through the nose with a vengeance.

The Stock Exchange has been giving an Art exhibition. We thought members were not allowed to canvass.

The memorial tablet to Shakespeare was unveiled at a brewery under the care of Beer-boom Tree.

The winner of the prize in the butter-making contest at the Dairy Show had evidently got her business pat.

A suffragette "drove" a motor 'bus through London. No doubt she preferred this to the tube.

"Lloyd George In Full," read a placard the other day. Rather bad for a temperance advocate.

"A big mag," says an advertisement of a ladies' paper. Naturally.

Will the Government get a tanning in Bermondsey?

Mental Training
Business Training
Literary Training

are Three Invaluable Courses offered to "John Bull" Readers by

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The mental Training Course would prove of inestimable value to you. It would show you how to develop your mental faculties, how to become self-reliant in thought and action, how to cultivate originality, how to summon into activity the latent powers of the mind. It would broaden your outlook, and open up many new avenues for self-culture; in short, it is full of possibilites for your future advancement and personal influence. This is one of our most popular Courses, and hundreds of letters have been received from appreciative students. Full particulars are given in the Prospectus. Send for a copy to-day.

If you want success in Business, study "T.P.'s Weekly" Business Training Course.

This Course gives sound, useful instruction and such practical help and guidance as will assist the student to qualify himself for a responsible position. While the lessons are not concerned with the rudiments of office routine, nothing essential to a thorough business training is overlooked. Correspondence, Business Organisation, the Principles of a Balance Sheet, Accounts, the Cultivation of Initiative, How to Form Habits of Independent Thought, How to Specialise, How to Qualify for Advancement—these and other subjects treated will enable you to advance far more quickly than any amount of proficiency in the mechanical part of the office. Read Prospectus and learn how this valuable Course will help *you* to a successful career.

The Literary Training Course.

If you look on the bookstalls you will see what an enormous field there is for the literary aspirant. "T.P.'s Weekly" Correspondence Literary Course offers a most valuable training. It saves the beginner *years* of delay by placing at his disposal experience that he cannot otherwise acquire.

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5.—FRENCH COURSE.
6.—ART TRAINING.
7.—BUSINESS TRAINING COURSE

COUPON. J.B.

To the ACTING SECRETARY,

"T.P.'s WEEKLY" CORRESPONDENCE COLLEGE,
5, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.

Please send me a Prospectus No. ..... as above. Also a Free Copy of *T.P.'s Weekly*.

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£890 IN PRIZES

This is the sum already divided amongst winners in Picture Couplets. Enter at once for the new contest announced below.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO

Below you will find the first line of a Picture Couplet together with a little sketch. What you have to do is to make a couplet by adding another line, the last word of which must rhyme with the last word of the line given.

TEN BIG CASH PRIZES FOR BEST SECOND LINES.

When you have written your couplet on the entry form fill in your name and address in the space provided, cut out the entry form attach to it a POSTAL ORDER FOR SIXPENCE, and place it in an envelope, addressed to the Editor, *Pearson's Weekly*, Henrietta Street, London, W.C. Mark your envelope "Lassie" in the top left-hand corner.

All attempts must arrive on or before Thursday, November 4th.

Everyone who enters must compete on the printed entry form, and send a postal order for 6d. with it. The P.O. must be made payable to C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., and should be crossed "& Co." The number must be written in the space provided on the entry form. Where one P.O. of higher value is sent to cover more than one attempt the number of this P.O. should be written on each entry form.

Of the amount received (after deducting ten per cent.) three-fourths will be divided amongst the senders of the ten lines which are considered to be the best by the adjudicators, by whom originality of idea will be taken into consideration.

The remaining one-fourth will be awarded in gifts by the adjudicators amongst those competitors whose efforts show merit.

The Editor of *Pearson's Weekly* will accept no responsibility in regard to the loss or non-delivery of any attempt submitted.

The full conditions of the contest appear in this week's *Pearson's Weekly*. The result will appear in *Pearson's Weekly* only.

This week £224 is distributed in Picture Couplets by *Pearson's Weekly*. The total now awarded is £890. Use the entry form below, and you may be a winner.

YOU MAY USE THIS ENTRY FORM.

No. of Postal Order

When a Lancashire lassie to get the vote tried

_____

_____

I agree to abide by the published decision and to accept it as final, and I enter only on this understanding, and I agree to abide by the conditions printed in "Pearson's Weekly."

SIGNED .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

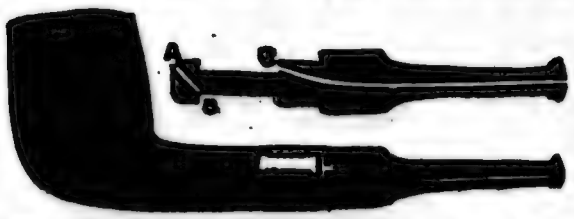
J.B. .....

When a Lancashire lassie to get the vote tried.
Example of a second line—not to be used:
"It is harder than work in the old mill," she sighed.

CAPS-EM
PERFECT PATENT

..A..

Revelation to Pipe Smokers.



Have you not tried many patent pipes in your time and found them ALL unsatisfactory? TRY the MOST PERFECT pipe yet invented, and procure one, to your lasting benefit.

THE most fascinating pipe for Smokers. Cleaned in two seconds. No soiling the hands. The nicotine has to pass through stem from A to B, the smoke is drawn up through C, therefore ensuring a perfectly cool and pure smoke. Made in six shapes —bent and straight.

2/-, 2/6, 5/6 & 7/6 each through all high-class Tobacconists, or samples sent post free upon receipt of — remittance from the —

CAPS-EM PERFECT PATENT PIPE CO LTD
165 Ladbroke Grove, Northkensington, W.

2 NEW PATTERNS 2
OF
THERMOS FLASKS
HAVE NOW BEEN INTRODUCED.

	PINTS.	QUARTS
WHITE METAL	10/6	15/-
LACK 1909	15/6	21/-

(Other patterns still made and sold).

These keep drinks icy cold or boiling hot for 24 hours without any artificial help.

EVERY HOUSEHOLD SHOULD POSSESS THEM.

Invaluable for Babies' Milk or Food—for Invalids, Travellers, Sportsmen, Tourists, Campers, Motorists, Fishermen, Picnickers, and for Hot Tea or Shaving Water in the Bedroom, and a thousand other useful purposes.

Of all JEWELLERS, CHEMISTS, IRONMONGERS and STORES.

Beware of worthless imitations.

Infringers of the "THERMOS" Patents are being prosecuted.
Wholesale only—A. E. GUTMANN & CO., 8, LOM . LANE, LONDON, E.C

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The Editor *replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.*]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when sending cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc., which will be duly acknowledged.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write names and addresses upon the back of their work. The Editor can accept no responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE SENT FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL.

The Editor *can express no opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

The Thousands of Readers who have written congratulating us upon the great Albert Hall meeting of the John Bull League are cordially thanked for their letters. We are sorry it is impossible to acknowledge them individually.

We have many times exposed the machinations of Gerrard, of 29, Belgarde Road, Catford, who supplies stencil outfits to the unsophisticated; the St. Bride's Watch Co., Ltd., 12, St Bride Street, London, E.C., who, by means of the well-known signature trick, palm off brass chains for 5s. 10d.; Lord and Co, Clarendon Street, Manchester, who persuade the credulous to purchase materials for making incandescent mantles (in one case for as much as £4 9s.); and the Stylo Supply Co., of Mortimer Street, London, W., who sell worthless fountain pens by offering four times the market rate for envelope addressing; and we should be obliged if readers would refrain from asking us for our opinion.

"Nemo" (Sheffield) has had some losing transactions with Crosbie the "bookie," of Broad Street House. He asks whether, in view of the statement of our two correspondents, N. C. B. and T. B., that they cannot get payment from Crosbie, he would be justified in declining to send cheque in settlement of another bad week. We think he would, as it appears doubtful whether he would have met with better treatment than N. C. B. and T. B. had the balance been the other way.

Mr. J. Hampden Davis, the Organiser of the London Cabdrivers' Trade Union, informs us that the paragraph in a recent issue of the *Evening News* is cruelly misleading, as it may bring a number of young fellows up from the provinces thinking to obtain good wages by taxicab driving in London. As a matter of fact, the only cabs idle are those broken down, and men are turned away from the garages daily owing to an insufficiency of vehicles. London is over-supplied with taxis, and they have great difficulty in getting, fares except during the times of going to and coming from places of amusement. Experienced drivers often earn ridiculously small sums, sometimes but 2s. a day, and it is only the gratuities of the public which keep the men going. Most of them would be glad to return to the old horsed cabs.

A. R. P. (West Bromwich), and many others, forward us the St. Bride's Watch Co.'s fly traps, offering a gold *finished* watch to those who are foolish enough to send them 5s. 10d. for a Brummagem chain—the bait being "a solid gold watch that chimes as a prize"—whatever that may be. It looks as though Lawrence has come out of gaol. One reader wonders where they got his name from, and suggests Davis, the bogus Pawnbroker or alternatively the Waltham Watch Depot. The former is very likely but we have no hesitation in saying that the latter, a highly respectable firm, would have no relations of any kind with such a fraud.

J. McL. (Bradford) says the hotel-keepers there are complaining of bad trade, and want Jim Crow to run up and spend a couple of days and a couple of fivers. Why not catch old Nussey before he goes abroad?

E. D. (Chiswick) sends us a long rigmarole about nude bathing and the warmth of overcrowded trams. He seems a very impressionable young man.

A. W. H. L. (Manchester) speaks highly of Horspool's vocal method.

A. C. B. (Nottingham).—Too bad of the young lady on the pier to mistake Lloyd George for the circus-man.

Instead of continually buying Razor Blades

-- BUY THE --

"DIAMOND" STROPPER

PRICE 2/6

MAKES OLD BLADES EQUAL TO NEW.

WILL SHARPEN "GILLETTE" BLADES.

Can be obtained from:—
C. BARRETT & CO., 188 Strand, W.C.; 81, Burlington Arcade, W.; 7, New Broad Street, E.C.; C. J. CLARKE, 27 Cheapside, E.C.; 20 & 108 Strand, W.C.; 127, High Holborn; 17, Illiter Street, E.C., and branches. HARRODS' LTD., Jewellery Dept., Brompton Road, W., AND ALL LEADING CUTLERS.

SAVE YOUR MONEY!

Invest in a "Lotisico" Policy and await results.

IT WILL INTEREST YOU!

Prospectus will be sent post free on receipt of name and address on a postcard.

THE FIRST DUTCH INSURANCE CO., LTD.
46, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Are You a Dormouse Cyclist?

Kuklos, the great Cycling Authority, writes in the *Daily News*:

"The most vigorous and active man objects to waste himself on such work as keeping things clean which ought not to require it.

The All-Black Sunbeam Bicycle delivers you from this multiplying Tyranny of small things. There is no plating on it at all. The rims are made of Roman Metal, which is an alloy of Aluminium, and rust proof, and the whole of the machine is gold-lined.

The Little Oil Bath Gear Case completes the armour of this Sunbeam's stubborn indifference to any sort of Weather Wickedness that can be wheeled through at all.

This model is a move on the right lines, and likely to help the Bicycle into its proper place as the handiest Vehicle for all the year round use.

If the dormouse Cyclist of to-day, who has only three or four months' riding in the year, knew that he could quicken his whole being (as no other tonic will) by a sharp Spin through wind and water, and then leave his machine untouched in the Shed while he goes straight for his own needs, I believe the dormice People would become a feeble Folk like the Conies."

J. Marston, Ltd.,—21, Sunbeamland—Wolverhampton send a coloured illustration of this new All-Black Sunbeam Bicycle free on application. Why not buy one of these machines and ride this Autumn?

"TADDY'S" GRAPNEL MIXTURE

A BLEND OF CHOICE TOBACCOS.

Price 6½d. per one Ounce Packet.
" 1/1 " two " Tin
" 2/2 " four " "

A 400% INVESTMENT.

EVERY £1 INVESTED WILL EARN £4.

This is not a statement made by a firm of bucket-shop keepers, nor is it made in connection with some wild-cat scheme in order to induce investors to run great risks of losing their money. Exceptional opportunities occur from time to time for people to make large sums of money without running any risk whatever, and this is one of them.

Investment is invited in a Substantial Company with a Government monopoly which will earn shareholders 400% on money invested without risk, thus ensuring a large income for a small outlay. The chance of a lifetime.

As these shares are now being rapidly taken up, immediate application should be made for a Prospectus giving full particulars which will be sent free to every applicant.

J. GODFREY, 18, Featherstone Bldgs., London.

To Lovers of Good Tobacco.

One of these Blends will prove to be the very Blend you've sought.

"TWO HOURS" Mixture 5d. per oz.
Cool, Fragrant, and absolutely Pure.

"ALDERWOOD" Mixture 5½d. per oz.
In Three Strengths. Our Latest Success

"LUNTIN" Mixture 6½d. per oz.
In Three Strengths.
The Blend that made us famous.

"MOUND" Mixture 1/4 per 2 ozs.
Blended from the finest leaf procurable.

All the Best Tobacconists supply the above, but should you have any difficulty, send stamps to the amount for Samples to the Manufacturers,

THOMSON and PORTEOUS, EDINBURGH.

For modern office use, AZURYTE is incomparable as a Writing Fluid. Try it in your Fountain Pen.

All Stationers sell it. In Bottles 1d. to 3/- each.

F. MORDAN and CO., 326, City Road, London.

ALEXINE.

MANY PEOPLE ARE FORCED TO EAT TOO MUCH in order to eat enough.

What you eat—how much you eat—or even how much you digest—is not the whole question.

By stimulating your appetite and aiding your digestion you may be only overloading your system with waste products.

ALEXINE will enable you to "get all the good out of your food." It is neither a food nor a medicine, but an aid to Nature.

The active principle of ALEXINE is free phosphoric acid, which acts upon the otherwise insoluble phosphates in your food and in your system, and enables your brain, your nerves and your muscle to take them up and make use of them.

Obtainable through all Chemists at 2/9 and 4/6 per bottle: or from sole British Agents at same prices, post free.

THOS. CHRISTY & CO.,
4, 10, 12, Old Swan Lane, London E.C

50

CAMBUS
Whisky
FAMED FOR OVER 50 YEARS

Talking of Furniture,

You can get the right price and the easiest terms by dealing with Drage. And, better still, you can get the right furniture—sound, solid goods, made for use as well as ornament; in fact, combining the two in perfect harmony. As an example of this, study our comfortable drop-end Chesterfield. It possesses a solid frame, and is upholstered in rich stamped velvet or saddle-bag. A really handsome and comfortable piece of furniture. Yet it only costs

£5 : 17 : 6

or if upholstered in tapestry

£3 : 19 : 6

it can be paid for at 5/- per month without a penny of added interest.

EASY PAYMENT TERMS

				Per Month.		
£2	10	0	...	0	4	0
5	0	0	...	0	5	0
10	0	0	...	0	6	0
20	0	0	...	0	10	0
50	0	0	...	1	6	0
100	0	0	...	2	2	0

Any amount pro rata.

It is this system that makes it "so simple" to furnish at Drage's, and to furnish well out of a limited income.

We have been selling on these real easy payment terms for over 50 years.

Every piece of furniture we advertise can be seen in our Showrooms.

DAVID DRAGE & SONS Established 1854 Ltd.

231 HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.
NEXT TO HOLBORN TUBE STATION

Catalogue sent Post Free.

M. M. (Cork) writes:—"I have rinsed my mouth thoroughly in the most effective disinfectant procurable after going through that disgusting concoction of drivel, petty spite, ignorance and vituperation mixed with a malicious distortion of facts which you serve up in an article by, I suppose, a 'Big Bullite,' rejoicing in the distinctly Frenchy cognomen of Henry Blanchamp." Evidently, Dr. Johnson has a greater number of zealous champions than our contributor imagined.

H. G. L. (Killarney) writes defending the noblemen who extract small coins from the visitors to Killarney. He says that "but for Lord Ardilaun's disinterested spirit, the bankrupt Muckross estate would now be in the hands of an American Syndicate, who would have destroyed the beauty of the countryside. There are, moreover, miles of roads kept up by the owner for the benefit of the tourists, and the fees all go to maintaining these roads." Our correspondent is evidently not enamoured with tourists. He says: "Your Birmingham reader and his like swarm over Killarney with Cook's tickets and live in hotels run by Germans. They perhaps benefit a few boatmen and car drivers who receive a minimum wage from Messrs. Cook or some other agency. Meanwhile, they swarm over this beautiful countryside, cut up country roads, for which I and other local ratepayers have to pay, and then complain because they are asked for a small contribution towards the upkeep of private grounds through which they only pass by privilege."

H. F. (Stoke Newington) complains about the Oxford Music Hall. He waited outside the unreserved seats before the doors were opened, but when he arrived upstairs he found that every seat had been booked, and there was standing room only. He complained to the manager, who "tried to calm him" and handed him his money back, but this did not compensate for the annoyance of waiting outside for an hour and a quarter on the understanding that unreserved seats existed.

G. W. G. (Moseley) sends us the following advertisement from the *Morning Post*:—

> Choir Boy.—Required in country vicarage, bright, gentlemannered, good-looking Boy of about 12 to sing in choir and be Companion to Vicar; offered home, education, and clothing.—Address, Bachelor, care Davies and Co., advertising agents, Finch Lane, Cornhill.

And informs us that a clergyman who advertised in a similar manner is now out on heavy bail awaiting his trial for a serious offence. The advertisement is certainly worded unfortunately.

S. J. B. (Gosforth) wants a biscuit for an announcement of:—"Great fourteen days' mission from October 2nd to October 14th." This is, evidently, an adaptation from the French, who call a fortnight *une quinzaine*.

C. M. (Oxford) writes:—"*Re* your observations on B.P. and his 11,000 scouts and their poles, did it occur to you that 40 poles make one 'rude,' and therefore 11,000 would justify any sort of remarks. One is tempted to note that 4 roods produce an 'acher,' so 11,000 poles (square or round) must be rather painful. Bear with me; at any rate, it may be said of one Powell (properly pronounced 'pole,' I believe) that it (or he) is a Bad'en (properly pronounced Bade-'n, though)." Steward!

J. H. C. (Bournemouth) asks when Mr. Churchill left the Tory Party. We cannot remember the exact date, but we suppose he would say that it was at the time when the Tory Party left him. There is certainly not a grain of truth in the yarn about his breaking his parole when the Boers took him prisoner. It is not usual to move amendments to bills on the First Reading, and we did not lay ourselves open to misunderstanding by waiting until the subject came up for regular discussion. It would be well to study Parliamentary procedure before criticising.

J. S. (Bolton) sends us a long indictment of Selfridge's, but we do not understand the precise charge. Perhaps he will formulate the counts.

A. C. (Forest Gate).—We never read or answer insignificant papers which attempt to build up a circulation by clinging to our coat-tails.

"Stalwart" (Johannesburg) says Lord Curzon wrote a long article in *The Times* about South Africa, "of which he absolutely knew next to nothing." He says: "Lord Curzon is talking piffle about prosperity; the magnates and capitalists are making the money which is spent out of the country and the workmen get next to nothing." All the same, we do not agree with our correspondent that the Colony is going to be given back to the Dutch.

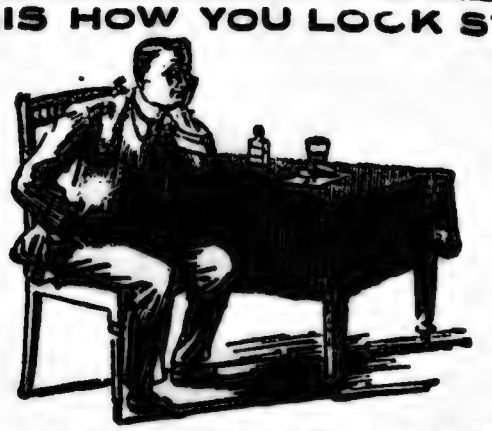
"The Tyke" (Carnforth) has read the article on Slander by Jim Crow, and exclaims that "At last the secret is out," Crow is no other than our Editor! Our friend must guess again. As to somebody's suggestion that otter-hunters carry spears, he exclaims, "Good Lord, this is England, not Zululand."

H. F. (Stoke Newington) says that our Business Government competition turned out exactly as he expected, and that nine-tenths of our readers are evidently Radicals. Otherwise, he thinks, they would have selected prominent members of the Opposition. What about Lord Charles Beresford, Lord Kitchener and Lord Curzon? Does he want *all* the posts?

"Veritas" (Benoni) protests against the treatment of mining hands by the De Beers Co., but what can we do?

(We regret we are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.)

IS THIS HOW YOU LOCK STILL?



No matter what the complaint or illness may be, DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED! Get up! Ask your nearest Chemist for a 7d. bottle simply "for a trial" of

"ROCLA"

NATURAL TONIC—Nature's Greatest Remedy—Rocla will give you the power of resistance by purifying and enriching the blood, and reviving your lost energy.

"ROCLA" is obtainable of all leading Stores and Chemists, at 1/1½, and 2/9 per bottle, or if there is difficulty in obtaining, it may be had (on remitting amount) carriage paid, direct from the

"ROCLA" NATURAL TONIC CO., 69, Edgware Road, London, W.

A very interesting historical booklet sent free.

BIRKBECK BANK

Established 1851.

SOUTHAMPTON BUILDINGS, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

2½ PER CENT. INTEREST

allowed on Deposit Accounts, repayable on demand.

2 PER CENT. INTEREST

on Drawing Accounts with Cheque Book.

All general Banking Business transacted.

ALMANACK with full particulars, POST FREE.

C. F. RAVENSCROFT Manager.

£50 to £5,000

WHY YOU SHOULD APPLY TO ME WHEN REQUIRING A LOAN.

I GUARANTEE ABSOLUTE SECRECY.

I REQUIRE NO SURETIES.

I COMPLETE YOUR BUSINESS SAME DAY.

I CHARGE YOU MODERATELY.

I ONLY WANT YOUR WRITTEN PROMISE TO REPAY.

CALL, TELEPHONE, OR WRITE TO

MR. ALFRED SPENCER, 11, BELFAST CHAMBERS 150, REGENT ST. W.

(ENTRANCE BEAK STREET). TEL. NO. 5932, GER.

ASTHMA SUFFERERS.

Instant Relief in Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and Whooping Cough by the use of Potter's Asthma Cure, in 1/- Tins. Sold everywhere. For Free Sample send post card to POTTER & CLARKE, LTD., Artillery Lane, London, E. (Mention this Magazine.

Instant Relief.

ALL Readers of "JOHN BULL," admittedly the

BEST PENNY WEEKLY,

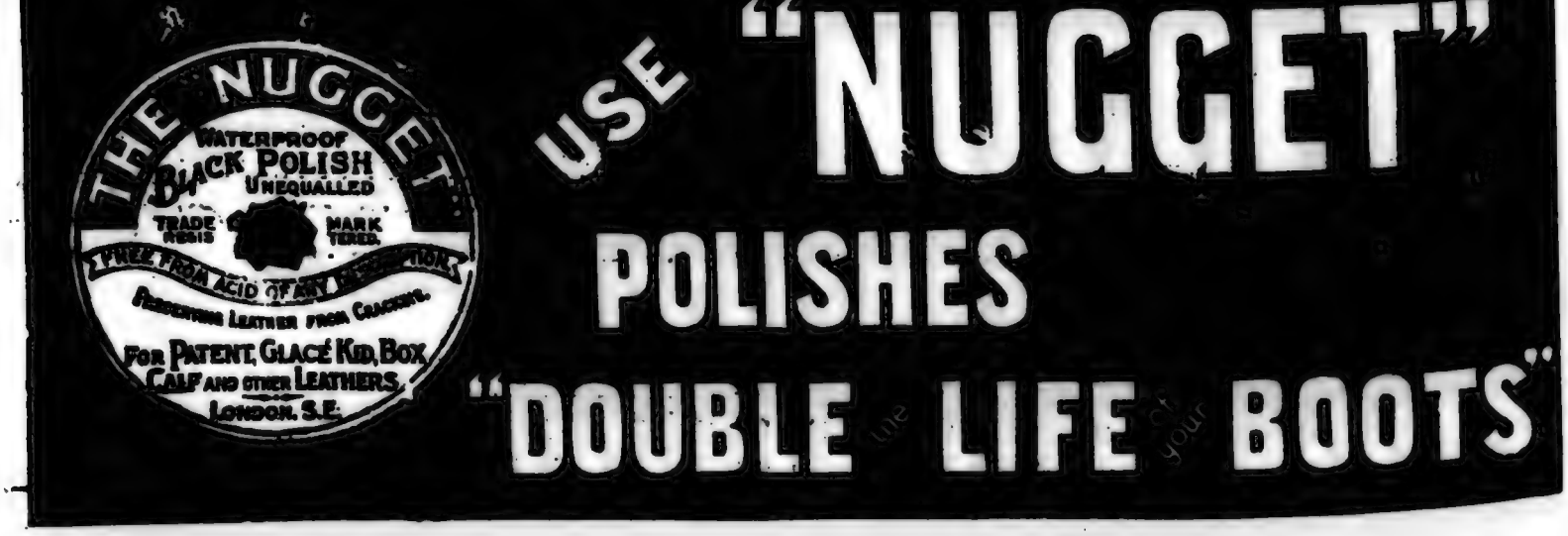
should also read

"The Throne and Country."

equally the BEST of ALL Illustrateds.

The most beautiful pictures superbly reproduced.

TUESDAYS, 6d., or ONE GUINEA PER ANNUM.



Subscription Closes on Saturday, October 30th.

America and Canada are Booming. Great Prosperity. Record Harvests. Immense Trade.

Whether or not you have ever dealt in American Railroads, or Canadian Stock we proclaim one fact; send us at once the application form attached below and learn from your own experience whether our advices and methods are valuable. We shall not invite you to any other dealings before we have completely proved that we know what we are talking about.

The time to buy is on days of reaction, as this is the condition precedent to a rise in prices. Very large amounts were paid out in connection with our former Trust transactions. Participants in our future Trust operations are invited to inspect list of payments.

MISSOURI TRUST

A great boom has commenced in America and Canada. It will be the boom of the century. America and Canada are growing with wonderful rapidity. There have been record crops. Great and wonderful harvests. Land values going up by leaps and bounds. Vast trade expansion, and consequently fortunes being made every day.

You cannot be pushed out of the market in six months even on a panic ground occur. Temporary reactions do not affect your transaction in the least, and no further margin is required.

(For 3 Months, £2 for every 1,000 dols.)

Your whole liability is limited to £2 (remitted) for every $1,000.

The profit in three months is estimated at £45 for every £2 remitted, which should mean that one will have returned £45 plus £2, equal to £47.

Whether or not you have ever dealt in American Railroads or Canadian Stock we invite you to send us at once the application form attached below and learn from your own experience whether our advices and methods are valuable for the general public.

Nothing else is expected of you than to recommend us to the circle of your acquaintances after the success has been completely proven, that means not before you have received from us £45 on your £2 remitted.

THE SUBSCRIPTION WILL BE CLOSED SATURDAY, THE 30th OF OCTOBER

Amount Required £2
Estimated Profit £45

GERSON HAMSON & CO., LIMITED, Norfolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: ESPONJAS, LONDON.

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR 1909.

INTERVIEW WITH A WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN MAGNATE.

We dare say we are experts in Yankees (American Railways) and Canadian Stock, and that we know everything about them that can be known. We dare say that we understand the entire Wall Street System better than any one of our competitors, and very often have an occasion to feel that in 3 months we could bring you further than you can get yourself in 3 years.

Nowadays almost everybody has a friend who is a dealer or broker in Stocks and Shares, so we cannot expect that you should give us the preference, unless we actually prove to you that we are often sooner and better informed than other firms. In the end the public will transact their business where the best profits are to be gained and the best conditions to be obtained.

We shall prove to you that our advices are valuable.

A Trust in Missouris: It is our intention to possess in 1909 the largest amount of clients that ever a stock broker or dealer could boast of, and we will realise this fact through our Trust Operations. We will force you to a certain degree, at least once, to give us an order and to form your own opinion about our method of dealing and the capacities of our correspondents.

J. PIERPONT MORGAN.

"Don't be a Bear on America," J. Pierpont Morgan said. "That man who is, goes broke." And we say "America is going to hum and Canada too."

Whether or not you have ever dealt in American Railroads, or Canadian Stock we proclaim this fact: Send us at once the application form attached below and learn from your own experience whether our advices and methods are valuable.

OUR PROPOSITION.

A Trust in Missouri, Kansas & Texas (For every Thousand Dollars you must send £2—and the estimated profit is £45—in 3 months).

Condition 1st. All shares are opened at the London closing price of Saturday, the 30th of October, which quotations are controlled by almost every English paper (Globe, Daily Telegraph, Financial News, Financial Times, &c., &c.). Suppose the closing price in London should be 47½–47¾ then is the buying price 47¾ each, which means naturally without you paying any further commission or other expenses. If you sell or buy according to tape prices and yet have to pay commission you are paying too much. A Daily Newspaper, from which you are able to ascertain these prices exactly, is sent you free of charge with every order.

2nd. All transactions will be closed the same date at London closing price, i.e., three months after the Trust opens, i.e., Monday, 31st January, 1910, and all profits, without any limit will be returned with the two pounds of your remittance.

3rd. If on Monday, 31st January, 1910, there would have been no profit made, the transaction will be kept open for the next 3 months, i.e., Saturday, 30th April, 1910, without any further margin. We hope it is now quite clear to you that the worst that can happen is that the closing quotation in London on 30th April, 1910, is 1% per cent. or more under the quotation of 30th Oct., 1909, and then, and only then, would your loss be £2, and under no circumstances more than the two pounds remitted.

4th. Every buyer receives a stamped contract informing the purchaser that if necessary we keep the account open for 6 months and that the entire responsibility of the buyer is limited to the £2 remitted.

OUR CORRESPONDENT PREDICTS:

A boom in Yankees and quotations for the different shares never surpassed also that Missouris will be 75%. That means, those investing in Missouris should make a profit of £45 on every 1,000 Dollars. Please keep in mind that the same correspondent after an interview with one of the best known American financiers predicted a rise of 60 per cent. in Unions, and those who have followed our advice will not have forgotten this.

We are convinced that through our Trust Operations we shall enlist and retain you as one of our clients.

On Saturday, 30th Oct., the Subscription will be closed. If you wish to become a participant in the Trust please send by return post the attached application form, with your name and address and the amount of Two Pounds to:—

GERSON HAMSON & CO., Limited, Norfolk House, Laurence Pountney Hill, Cannon Street, London, E.C.

CHAT ON 'CHANGE.

This book, compiled by a leading financial expert, will be sent gratis and post free to every one subscribing in our Trust Operation.

It is a complete handbook and guide for the use of those who wish to study the various methods of Stock Exchange operations.

Being written in plain and easy language it can be readily understood by everybody.

THIS FORM MAY BE USED. J.B.

I buy thousand Dollars Missouri Kansas and Texas Common Shares on the London closing price of Saturday, the 30th of Oct., 1909, and further on the conditions as mentioned in your advertisement, for which I enclose £2, with the understanding that my entire risk is limited to this amount.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

If you will invest a larger amount, please make the form out accordingly. For instance: If you wish to make out the form for $5,000 you must remit £10. You can also REMIT BY POSTAL ORDER OR CHEQUE.

More of these forms can be obtained by application to our offices or by writing.

RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.

("*Larry Lynx*" *of* The People, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* The Globe.)

Steeplechasing Can't Pay.

I am able to contradict the announcement that Mr. Hubert Hartigan is retiring from the ownership of jumpers this winter, although there is some ground for the statement, inasmuch as several of the horses were submitted to auction at Sandown recently. The fact is that, like the late Lord William Beresford, Sir John Miller, and everybody who has followed the game extensively in turn, Mr. Hubert Hartigan finds that the cost is enormous, with the chance of success in the long run absolutely *nil*. The reason really is that so soon as a stable begins to win a race or two their representatives are at once crushed in handicaps and 6 to 4 in price whenever they have the faintest chance. Thus, with the expenses terrible, one has to win three times out of four to meet the outgoings.

Prophetic.

With the Cambridgeshire over, there will not be much of interest left in Newmarket's card, for the historical stakes are in the main "walks over," and the handicaps—especially dealt with days in advance—literal lotteries. Envy, however, has run forward once or twice, and must have a chance in the Richmond Nursery to-day (Thursday), while on Friday we shall hope to see Minoru—over a shorter course—restore himself to public favour in the Free Handicap. In the Queensberry Handicap, if Glasgerion waits for it rather than fulfilling one of his weight-for-age engagements, he has a big chance, for three-year-olds are now quite at their best.

At Folkestone and Birmingham there is really nothing tempting to bet upon, and I would sooner now allude to next week's Newbury meeting in ticking off Dutch Courage as "well in" the November Nursery, while his companion Blackstone—who has now had a rest—may be able to win the Beckhampton Handicap.

EVERY Member of the

JOHN BULL LEAGUE

is Loyal to

The THRONE

(and COUNTRY).

Mr. Horatio Bottomley at the Albert Hall, Oct. 21st, 1909.

THE SPORTING PICTORIAL.

Every Tuesday, Price 6d.

HARRY APPLETON.

The Renowned Football and Turf Accountant, FLUSHING, HOLLAND
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The following claims have been received for the issue of September 11th:—

MRS. MCSWEENY, 1, Ethelne Street, Cornwall Road, Lambeth. (No. 183985—September 11th.)

W. E. CONSTABLE, Fernbank, Cherryhinton Road, Cambridge. (No. 128289—September 11th.)

P. H. HANSON, 42, Maddin Road, Sydenham, S.E. (No. 187446—September 11th.)

JOHN DAVIDSON, 93, Oxford Drive, Glasgow. (No 41873—September 11th.)

NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF SEPTEMBER 25.

3627	59341	133286	199254	249275
7921	65812	137301	200541	251014
14002	80265	149662	205483	256116
15158	84371	165028	209823	261969
24168	85826	174114	217577	265104
40544	90118	177982	228562	273990
41629	93071	178906	230008	275887
47006	108925	188248	237128	286126
50315	121451	188546	244159	291762
53749	127754	185938	246765	296456

NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF OCTOBER 2.

872	53877	137881	196314	262179
1004	62861	140950	204191	267318
3765	69444	141921	210040	275133
7111	74286	153648	218527	281400
14928	80927	167534	227480	287414
19882	87551	167825	236111	294113
23712	100118	176938	243762	296052
31420	105984	184599	258632	305275
40298	113247	186454	260048	305276
44004	127598	189245	261152	311996

THE 100 NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR ISSUE DATED NOVEMBER 27th (PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 25th).

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For meaning of this number see page iii. of cover.